

# THE Hongkong Weekly Press

## AND China Overland Trade Report.

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### MARRIAGE.

On the 7th March, at the Imperial German Consulate-General and afterwards at the Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., CARL WOLTER, of Chemulpo, Korea, to JEANNIE, eldest daughter of James JOHNSTON, Esq., of Messrs. Boyd & Co., Limited, of Pootung.

### ARRIVALS OF MAIL.

The German mail of the 11th February arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Bayern*, on the 14th March (31 days); and the American mail of the 12th February arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Oceanic*, on the 14th March (30 days).

### EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Li Hung-chang left Tientsin for Japan on his peace mission on the 14th inst.

The man Howie, who was arrested by the Japanese at Weihaiwei, has been taken to Ujins.

Hanoi is providing itself with new water works. The work was officially inaugurated on the 2nd inst.

The King of Siam was said to be again suffering from an attack of fever, by last accounts, 28th February.

Payment of a fourth dividend of five per cent, in the liquidation of the New Oriental Bank Corporation, Limited, is advertised.

We hear that a severe snow storm was experienced at Shanghai on Saturday. Snow lay so thick that the coolies stopped work.

The annual meeting of the Hongkong Hotel Co., Limited, was held on the 16th inst., when the report and accounts were adopted *nem. con.*

The Dutch steamer *Continental* on arrival at Manila on the 12th inst. was sent into quarantine for five days' observation, having called at Amoy, which has been declared a suspected port.

The ceremony of putting the captured Chinese ships *Ping-yuen* and *Kwang-ping* upon the strength of the Japanese Navy was performed at Hiroshima on the 5th inst. A salute of 21 guns was fired.

A Japanese gunboat named the *Suma*, which has been constructed at the Yokosuka shipbuilding yard, was to be launched on the 9th inst. in presence of her Majesty the Empress. The construction of the sister ship *Akashi* is also said to be nearly completed.

The annual meeting of the Green Island Cement Co., Limited, was held on the 14th inst., when the report and accounts were adopted. The profit on working was \$10,084 and the balance at debit of profit and loss account has been reduced from \$82,425 to \$78,030.

According to a Reuter's telegram of the 14th inst., Mr. Edmund Robertson, Civil Lord of the Admiralty, stated in the House of Commons that this year's Loan Bill made no provision for the extension of the Naval Dockyard at Hongkong, but he hoped that a preliminary survey would be made. The *Times* urges the importance of avoiding delay in this matter.

We (*Mercury*) understand that Mr. Knobel, formerly of H.N.M. Consular Service in Russia, and lately Chargé d'Affaires at Teheran, has been appointed Netherlands Minister Resident at Peking. Mr. Ferguson, who held this office for many years, returned to Europe a few months ago on account of ill-health, and it appears from the above that he will not return to his post.

A Peking telegram to the *Mercury* says:—All Li Hung-chang's rivals have been dispersed, and if he is successful in concluding peace negotiations great reforms are to take place in the Empire, the carrying out of which is to be left in the hands of those who are now endeavouring to effect the change. Wung Tung-ho, the Emperor's Tutor, former foe to progress, is now discountenanced, and there is a complete change of sentiment amongst most of the high officials.

A collision took place on the Sanyo Railway on the 1st inst., by which many passengers received slight injuries, but only fifteen were found to be so seriously injured that it was necessary to secure medical treatment for them. As soon as the report of the accident reached Kurashiki Station it was wired to Okayama, and two doctors belonging to the Okayama Hospital hastened to the scene with nurses and police officers. The engine-driver of the down train, who is said to be responsible for the accident, received such serious injuries that he had to be taken to the Kobe Hospital.

The Nanking correspondent of the *Mercury* writes:—The ancient and modern conservatism of this proud historic city seems to be undergoing some process of evolution. Some dynamic force is moving us. We are to have a tramway car line running between Hsia-kwan and the Viceroy's yamen. The road is already marked out and measures about thirty feet wide. The car service is to be run by horse-power. The scheme is a good one, and if our enterprising Viceroy is able to carry out his plans "the golden city of the Mings" promises to become a great centre of commercial as well as of political interest. This may be the beginning of a series of reforms which the Japanese may utilise and follow up when they have secured Nanking as their treaty port in the Yangtsze valley.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has approved of exchange compensation being granted to Hongkong officials, who are now to be allowed to draw half their salary at the rate of 3s. to the dollar, their leave pay being given at the rate of 4s. to the dollar. A former offer, which involved the drawing of leave pay at 3s., was declined, and on the representations made to him Lord Ripon has reconsidered his decision, with the result above stated.

The report of the China Sugar Refining Co., Limited, for 1895 has been issued. The net profits, including \$16,373 brought forward, amounts to \$250,898. An interim dividend of \$8 per share was paid in August, and it is now proposed to pay a final dividend of \$4, making \$12 for the year, and to carry forward \$11,540. The usual course of business was interfered with by the drought and plague, on which followed the China-Japan war, which restricted sales in the latter country.

The fourth great National Exhibition will be held this summer at Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan and birthplace of Japanese art, and will be open from April to August. This exhibition will commemorate the eleven hundredth anniversary of the foundation of Kyoto, and will therefore be an interesting historical occasion. The Taihin Kyokwai, an association formed for the purpose of promoting the convenience and comfort of foreign visitors, is making arrangements to this end, including the starting of a club at Kyoto and securing special travelling facilities. Their agents, the Merdiya, at Kobe and Yokohama, will furnish particulars to foreign visitors to Japan.

Viscount Enomoto, the Japanese Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, on behalf of the Cabinet, announced on the 5th inst. in the House of Representatives that, owing to the financial pressure upon the Government in consequence of the war, the representations for establishing an iron foundry, for extending the railway from Hiroshima to Bakan, for encouraging ship-owning by subsidies, for extending steam navigation to foreign ports, and for repairing the embankments of large rivers, also the bills for establishing a silk-thread examination office at Yokohama, for enlarging the Commercial Navigation School, and increased expenditures on the extension of telegraphic and telephonic wires, all approved by the Diet, cannot be accepted for accomplishment during the next financial year. The Government regrets that these things must necessarily be left over until the present difficulties are at an end.

There seems little room for doubt, says the *Japan Advertiser*, that Howie has been brought to Japan for trial. The expectation was that his trial would take place by court-martial immediately after the fall of Weihaiwei, but we learn on good authority that a prisoner whose name was kept strictly secret came over in one of the transports and is now at Hiroshima. What sentence will be passed upon Howie it is of course impossible to foretell, but in all probability he will be condemned to death, and afterwards that sentence will be modified to some form and degree of imprisonment. To the Chinese he does not seem to have been of any special service. Contrary to a report from Chinese sources, which we published, he has not been able to apply to practical use the murderous invention, to which he and his companion crossed the Pacific. He appears to have been employed mostly in helping to fire the big guns on the ships and Liuko Island.



## THE COLONY'S SURPLUS ASSETS.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council on Tuesday a statement of the assets and liabilities of the colony together with a statement of the revenue and expenditure for 1894 were laid on the table. The statement of assets and liabilities is something new and the Government is to be congratulated on affording the public the information therein contained. Formerly it was the custom to attach a so-called statement of assets and liabilities to the annual statement of revenue and expenditure, but the figures were presented in a quite incomprehensible form, and for a number of years past they have been omitted. The statement now presented is a business-like balance sheet and reflects credit on the officer who has prepared it. It is signed by the Hon. N. G. MITCHELL-INNES, Colonial Treasurer, but whether that gentleman is responsible for the form in which it is drawn up or not we are unable to say. Its publication is no doubt to be accounted for by the criticism evoked by the Governor's statement a few months ago that the colony possessed a balance of \$600,000 irrespective of all monies derived from loans. That statement was at the time received with incredulity, and rightly so. According to the figures now presented the total assets of the colony on the 31st December last amounted to \$2,009,912, and the liabilities to \$581,299, leaving a balance of \$1,428,613, of which \$979,974 represents the unexpended balance of the 1893 loan of £200,000. This gives a balance in round figures of \$450,000 which from the Governor's point of view might be termed irrespective of the loan, or \$150,000 less than His Excellency stated; and if the deposit in England at call of \$1,157,350 were taken at the rate of exchange at which the money was borrowed a large proportion of the \$450,000 would disappear. It is not stated at what rate sterling sums have been converted into dollars, but presumably the rate of the day has been taken. If the fall in exchange has increased the dollar equivalent of the colony's sterling funds it has in the same proportion increased its future liabilities in dollars, so that a balance resulting from a fall in exchange has no substantial value. The money remaining in hand from the loan figures amongst the assets, but there is no entry in respect of it under the head of liabilities, as no repayments were due on the 31st December. The colony, however, is responsible for a loan now standing at nearly £350,000, contracted at a much higher rate of exchange than that which now prevails, and, unless exchange should rise again, the treasury will be a loser to the extent of the difference.

Turning now to the statement of revenue and expenditure, it is a noteworthy fact, and one showing conspicuously the vitality of the colony's prosperity, that the year of the plague should have yielded the largest revenue that has ever been collected. The total was \$2,287,203, which is a substantial increase on the revenue for 1893. Of the eighty-two heads under which the figures are given forty-four show a decrease, thirty-six an increase, and three are the same for both years; but while the decreases amount to \$41,425 only, the increases total \$250,493, leaving the net increase at the very handsome sum of \$209,068. A portion of this increase, however, does not represent any real augmentation of income. There is, for instance, an increase of \$30,000 in interest, the amount received under this heading being a little over \$37,000 as against rather less than \$7,000 the previous year; this is interest on borrowed money and will disappear as the balance of the loan is used up. Postage, again, shows an increase of between twenty-four and twenty-five thousand

and dollars, but on the other hand payments on account of the postal service are increased to a rather larger amount. The increase under the head of "Stamps," \$27,000, is more than accounted for by probate duty, which is an uncertain source of income. We have, however, an increase in the profit on subsidiary coins of \$54,682, the total amount under this heading being \$133,824 as against \$79,141 the previous year, and an increase of \$47,000 under the ambiguous heading of "Other miscellaneous receipts." The rent from leased lands shows an increase of \$17,705, which may be regarded as the most satisfactory item in the account, as the taking up of land is indicative of progress and development, more especially when it happens in a year like 1894, which was almost devoid of speculation pure and simple.

If the revenue has increased, however, the expenditure has increased to a still greater extent, the net increase on this side of the account being \$378,572. Of this amount \$55,000 is accounted for by the increased charge on account of the public debt, and there is an increase of \$74,382 under the head of military expenditure, due to the low exchange, while under the head of "miscellaneous services" there is an increase of no less than \$179,481. The Post Office shows an increased expenditure of \$30,000, and there is an increase under the head of pensions of \$13,370. Decreases are shown under four heads only, amounting to the insignificant total of \$12,759, while the increases amount to no less than \$391,331, almost every department showing an increase of larger or smaller amount. The total expenditure of the colony was \$2,299,096, exclusive of extraordinary public works chargeable against the loan, while the total revenue was \$2,287,203, showing a small balance on the wrong side of \$11,893. The colony therefore spent more than its income last year. The figures show how important is the practice of a rigid economy in the immediate future, for unless expenditure can be brought well within the limits of income the credit of the colony will soon suffer. But it should be pointed out that the unfavourable balance of last year was largely due to the plague. The estimate under the head of miscellaneous services was \$72,411 and the actual expenditure \$277,329, the expenses incurred in coping with the epidemic being presumably brought under this heading, for they are not shown separately, as we think they ought to have been. Had the expenditure for miscellaneous services been confined within the estimate the total expenditure of the colony would have been about \$190,000 less than the revenue, which might perhaps have been considered moderately satisfactory, though seeing that we now have the charges on account of the Taipingshan resumption to meet out of balances, as well as the expense of the re-erection of Gap Rock Lighthouse, and various other public works not chargeable to the loan, a surplus of that amount is nothing to boast of. The colony is now paying away nearly one tenth of its income on account of the public debt, which should mark the limit of its borrowing, so that the cost of public works which may be found necessary, outside those already provided for, will for some years to come have to be defrayed out of revenue.

## II.

In connection with the dispute (rather a puerile one) raised by the *China Mail* in reference to the statement of the colony's assets and liabilities, our contemporary says it had not by any means exhausted its sources of information when it mentioned the blue book of 1893. It is unfortunate for our contemporary that it should have

its information doled out to it piecemeal and that the information should always fail in point of complete accuracy. In its Thursday's issue the *Mail* conveyed the impression that the statement of assets and liabilities had invariably been published in the blue book. As a matter of fact it appeared in the blue book for the first time in the 1892 issue. On Friday night our contemporary returns to the charge and says that if we will look through the supplementary colonial estimates for the last seven or eight years the statement of assets and liabilities will there be found in precisely the same form as that in which it was presented to the Legislative Council on the 12th inst., and, to be still more precise, that it will be found on page 2. We accordingly turn to the latest of the supplementary estimates, those for 1893, laid before the Legislative Council in September last, and we find—what? That the statement is not there and that page 2 is a blank. It is unkind of our contemporary's informant to place it in such a ridiculous position. On referring to previous years' supplementary estimates, however, we find there have been statements of the assets and liabilities in the same form, as regards general outline, as that presented at the last Council meeting. The praise we bestowed on some unknown present day official for originating that form was therefore unmerited. But whereas in former years the statement was presented under such conditions that it was generally overlooked it is now presented under conditions which were evidently intended to draw marked attention to it; and the intention has been fulfilled, for the statement has been, for the first time, reproduced in all the English newspapers of the colony and has no doubt been read and studied more or less closely by the entire community, which has never been the case before. That the newspapers, the *China Mail* included, should have overlooked the statement when presented in previous years may be a reflection on their vigilance, but it has no bearing whatever on the significance attachable to the manner in which the statement has been presented this year. In 1895 for the first time the statement has been presented to the Legislative Council as a separate paper; in 1895 for the first time it appears in the *Government Gazette*; in 1895 it is rendered more complete by the addition of a footnote showing what portion of the nominal surplus assets consists of money derived from the loan; and in 1895 it is presented early in March instead of some months later. Why this unusual expedition, the special attention drawn to the statement by the manner of its presentation, and its greater fulness? In our first article on the subject, being at the time under the impression that the statement was something entirely new, as in fact it is so far as its presentation to the public is concerned, we suggested that it was intended as the Governor's reply to the criticism evoked some months ago by His Excellency's statement that the colony had a balance, independent of all monies derived from loans, of \$600,000. Our contemporary on Thursday said it was "absurd to argue that the publication of the statement was due to the hostile criticisms of the Governor's reported balance of \$600,000, which still requires explanation." By Friday night that opinion seems to have undergone a reversal, for our contemporary then "frankly admits" that until we called attention to the matter it was unaware that "this annual statement of assets and liabilities had much direct bearing upon the recent statement of the Governor that the colony had a balance in hand of \$600,000." The discussion has therefore done some good,



whom was armed with a revolver and another with a sword, entered No. 35, Nullah Lane and stole clothing valued at \$13.00.

5.—At 8.30 a.m. on the 10th of September four men, one armed with a revolver and one with a sword, entered No. 102, Queen's Road West, tied up the occupants and stole clothing to the value of \$13.00.

6.—At 10 a.m. on the 11th of September three men entered a matched at Deep Water Bay, tied up the occupants, and stole property to the value of \$5.00.

7.—On the 5th of October at 7 p.m. seven men, armed with revolvers, entered No. 12, Jervois Street, tied up the occupants and stole clothing, jewellery, and money to the value of \$740.00. This was the night of the severe typhoon.

8.—At noon on the 24th of October three men entered No. 5, Tang-loi Lane; during the absence of the master of the shop, threw pepper in the eyes of the only person on the premises—a tailor—and stole \$425.00.

9.—On the 12th of November at 7.30 p.m. six men, armed with revolvers, entered No. 10, Winglok Street, tied up the occupants and stole \$1,800.00.

The robbery at No. 156, Winglok Street, occurred on the 22nd of November, but as all the prisoners were first indicted for murder the case is recorded as one of murder in the statistics.

I regret to say that an English maid was the object of the first of these robberies. On the 18th of January last at 3 p.m. while walking on the Bonham Road she was seized by a man, who tried to possess himself of her bangles, and not succeeding in this attempt snatched her umbrella and ran away.

The remaining eight cases bear no feature of special importance. With one exception, that of a European sailor who was robbed of a pocket book containing papers and \$2.50 in money while under the influence of liquor, the robberies were committed in the Chinese quarter of the town on Chinese and the amounts stolen varied from \$1.00 to \$11.00.

On the 14th of October a seaman was arrested at Yau-mati for robbing his father of \$2,700. He formed one of the crew of his father's fishing junk and he poisoned the evening meal of rice with datura alba, and while his father, sister, and brother were lying stupefied with the drug he stole the large sum of money mentioned. He was convicted and sentenced to six years' imprisonment.

I have drawn attention in a separate report to this case and to two others of attempted poisoning, and have suggested the desirability of placing restrictions upon the sale of poisons in this colony.

The remaining case occurred on board the steamer *Tantalus*: one Chinese fireman robbing another of \$25.00. The fireman was arrested, but the case, which arose out of a quarrel, was dismissed.

5.—There is an increase as compared with the returns for 1893 in the following offences:—

	1893.	1894.
Robbery with violence from the person .....	19	29
Drunkenness .....	192	302
Nuisance .....	510	538
No light or pass .....	57	191
Desertion, refusal and neglect of duty .....	69	93
Rogues and vagabonds suspicious characters .....	103	153
Breach of Public Vehicle Ordinance .....	145	153
Cutting trees or earth .....	147	170
Obtaining goods and money by false pretences .....	39	67
Damage to property .....	34	50
Trespass .....	76	112
Breach of Dangerous Goods and Arms Ordinances .....	101	112

On the other hand there is a decrease in the following offences:—

	1893.	1894.
Burglary or larceny from dwelling .....	66	41
Assault with intent to rob .....	4	3
Larcenies .....	2,156	2,103
Felonies not already given .....	78	67
Assault .....	1,057	1,007
Gambling .....	319	218
Kidnapping .....	72	48
Unlawful possession .....	327	278
Mendicants .....	386	251
Unlicensed hawking .....	1,021	779
Street cries .....	155	103
Breach of Harbour and Coast Ordinance .....	353	301
Breach of Spirit and Opium Ordinances .....	804	742
Breach of Registration Ordinance .....	15	6
Breach of Police, Gaol, and Deportees Ordinances .....	67	42
Breach of Pawnbrokers, Markets, Weights and Measures Ordinances .....	711	597
Spurious coin .....	11	7
Intimidation, extortion, bribery and conspiracy .....	15	10
Cruelty to animals and furious driving .....	38	32
Contempt of Court and false charge .....	25	18

There are the same number of cases of attempted suicide, viz., 13 in both years.

The principal offences included under the heading of "Felonies not already given" were—

- Five cases of forgery.
- Four cases of cutting and wounding.
- Two cases of demanding money by menaces.
- Three cases of attempted arson.
- One case of incendiarism.
- One case of rape.
- One case of drugging.

6.—The most unsatisfactory feature in the year's returns is the increase in the number of cases of robbery with violence, and especially the very serious nature of the gang robberies at 12, Jervois Street; 10, Winglok Street; and at 56, Winglok Street.

With regard to the increase in number of these cases it is right to mention that during the five months from the 1st of May to 30th September when from 5 to 10 per cent. of the force was engaged on plague work there occurred thirteen cases as against six during the same period in 1893. However, the three most serious cases occurred after the men had all returned to regular duty. The winter months are, of course, the most dangerous; and it is worthy of note that it is reported from Canton that gang robberies of a similar nature have been very rife there this winter.

I should also point out the extraordinary ease with which these robberies can be effected.

In the Jervois Street and the two Winglok Street cases, for instance, the inmates of the shops outnumbered the robbers by more than two to one, and yet in each case they never offered the slightest resistance or endeavoured to communicate the alarm to persons in the street or their neighbours.

The robbers, of course, rely on this passivity and are enabled, unless some accident happens, as at 56, Winglok Street, to carry out one of these raids under the very noses of the Police.

But it is not only in the presence of robbers that the shopman's courage fails him. In the second Winglok Street case the inmates of the shop, although they admitted being able to identify the robbers, absolutely refused to accompany the Police in the search for the men.

One of their number was at last induced to lend his services, but it is not too much to say that he was virtually compelled to acquiesce. After two hours' search he asked to go home, and it was necessary to practically detain him in a Police Station all night lest he should not be forthcoming for the morning search.

After the arrest of the five men concerned in the robbery at 56, Winglok Street, it was of course desired to ascertain, if possible, whether they were the same gang that had robbed No. 10 in the same street.

The inmates of the latter shop were asked to go up to the gaol and look at the men and they emphatically refused to do so.

There are two remedies to prevent the recurrence of such outrages as these robberies constitute.

One, of course, is to keep the Police Force up to its full strength as far as possible throughout the year, and the other is to perfect the Chinese detective branch of the Force, drawing at the same time all the assistance possible from the District Watchmen's Force, which should be brought into closer touch with the Police.

7.—I referred in my report of last year to the number of larcenies by servants. I regret to say that there was no diminution in this particular form of offence during 1894.

Nineteen watches were reported as stolen, and of these only four were recovered by the Police, although no trouble was spared to trace the property, the great bulk of which is, I think, taken into the interior of China and either melted down or sold to local magnates.

Even when the Police succeed in tracing one of these thieves to his native village it does not follow as a consequence that the Chinese authorities will assist much in recovering the property.

Take, for example, the case of the \$225.00 and gold watch stolen from Mr. H. M. Mehta by his chair coolie. Although the watch had actually been seen by an emissary of the Police in a certain village, the Chinese officials failed to recover it, although after five months' correspondence they did produce half of the number of dollars.

I suggested registration of servants last year as a safeguard against these larcenies, and I

have since recommended that licensing of servants be made compulsory by law. I am aware that the law which formerly existed on this subject became a dead letter. But the only reason for that was the apathy of residents in this colony.

It was too much trouble to spend ten minutes in registering a servant before engaging him, and so a boy who has robbed his former master or a chair coolie who has misconducted himself and been dismissed find employment probably next door, where they possibly repeat the same offences.

I regard the licensing of private chair coolies at any rate as a most desirable and even necessary measure in the interests of law and order. The Hongkong private chair coolie is one of the most impudent and unruly members of this community, and the sole reason is that neither his master nor the police have direct control over him.

If he were licensed, as a public chair coolie or jinricksha coolie is, a very great improvement would be speedily observed in his behaviour.

8.—I have already reported fully on the clan disturbances between Tung Koon and Sz Yap coolies which disgraced this colony in March last, resulting in one man being shot dead and several others wounded by revolver shots and knives.

The fight had its origin in a collision between processionists of the two factions during the monster celebration both on land and water of the Feast of Lanterns last year.

The incident stirred up the dormant enmity between the two clans, and it only required another collision between some cargo coolies at West Point to fan the ill-feeling into flame.

For four days all work on steamers in the harbour ceased, as the coolies of either party were afraid to go to work lest they should be exposed to the attack of the other. In the meantime the members of the various clubs frequented by either party—professional fighting men and bullies—constituted themselves the champions of either side and carried on for four days a gureilla warfare, not upon each other, but upon any isolated members of the clans they might happen to meet.

In this way a coolie who with another was carrying a load in Hillier Street was shot by a man who walked quietly up to him with a revolver, discharged it against his abdomen, and walked as quietly away, not one in the crowded street having the courage to interfere with him or even to raise the alarm, although a strong Police patrol had only just passed by. Nay, more, not a single one of the many witnesses who must have seen the murder committed—for it was done at 12 o'clock in the day when the street and shops were full of people—would give any information at all to assist in tracing the man.

The companion of the murdered man made no report to the Police, and an entire day was spent in finding him.

Nine other coolies were cut down with swords and knives while pursuing their ordinary avocations, and two men were wounded by revolver shots fired from the tops of house in Queen's Road West into the houses opposite.

This was put a stop to by posting armed Police on the house tops. Thirteen men were arrested for carrying revolvers in the street and four for being armed with knives, while numerous arrests were made for fighting and disturbing the peace.

It was found possible to break up the clubs which had furnished the professional fighting men who carried on the disturbances, and in four days order was restored and the coolies returned to their work.

You are aware that the officer administering the Government (Sir George O'Brien) reported to the Secretary of State his opinion that the Police had acted with credit in this emergency, and I take this opportunity of stating that each branch of the force well deserved His Excellency's commendation.

The circumstances were such as to call into prominence the usefulness of the Chinese contingent, men displaying energy, intelligence, and courage.

I have also to acknowledge the valuable assistance rendered by the Registrar General and the District Watchmen.

9.—I have referred above to the drain of men from the Police Force caused by the plague.

There was no alternative but to lend as many men as were wanted to carry on the work of the Permanent Committee of the Sanitary Board (of which I myself was a member), for there was



the applicants to furnish details as to how many Europeans and Chinese were on the premises.

Mr. FRANCIS thereupon withdrew his resolution and seconded Mr. Cooper's amendment, which was put as the substantive motion and carried.

#### MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The Secretary reported that the death rate for the week ended 2nd March was 20.8 per 1,000 per annum as compared with 16.3 in the corresponding week of last year. For the week ended 9th March the death-rate was 19.9 as compared with 21.1 in the corresponding week last year. A case of typhoid fever was reported.

Appended was the following minute:—

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C.—In cases of typhoid fever should there not be, in every case, a close enquiry of a special nature into each case, to ascertain, so far as possible, the cause. In some cases, of course, there is no possibility of tracing the cause, but in other cases, yes.

#### THE DRAINAGE PLANS.

The Surveyor's reports on the condition of certain house drains were discussed.

Hon. F. A. COOPER said he regretted that the plans of the drainage system of Victoria, Kowloon, and Yau-mat were not yet in the hands of members. The plans were in course of preparation and would be ready shortly, when members would be in full possession of the various streets and places in which the drains were.

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY SURVEYOR.

The following is the annual report of the Sanitary Surveyor, Mr. J. R. Crook, laid before the Sanitary Board on Thursday:—

Sir,—I have the honour to submit the following report for the year ending December 31st, 1894.

1.—Plans for the redrainage of two hundred and fifty-two (252) houses were carried forward from 1893; plans for eight hundred and seventy-eight (878) houses were deposited in 1894, making a total of eleven hundred and thirty (1,130) in hand during the year.

2.—A total of five hundred and fifty-five (555) houses have been completed and the plans for eight (8) houses cancelled during the past year, leaving five hundred and sixty-seven (567) still incomplete which are carried forward to 1895.

3.—Certificates have been granted under section 74, Ordinance 24 of 1877, to forty-six (46) houses as having been built in accordance with the provisions of that Ordinance.

4.—Tables A and B annexed show clearly—

Table A.—The plans received and work completed during each quarter of the past year.

Table B.—The plans received, work completed and certificates granted since the Public Health Ordinance came into force.

5.—The number of houses (567) carried forward from last year is largely in excess of what it has been in previous years. About one-third of these, however, are new buildings still in course of erection, while of the remainder a large proportion are completed except for small repairs.

6.—The number of houses certified as having been built in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Ordinance is only forty-six (46) as compared with two hundred and nineteen (219) in 1893 and four hundred and seventy-five (475) in 1891; the reduction may probably be attributed to the plague.

7.—The drains of five hundred (500) houses were inspected by me last year under a warrant from the President made in accordance with section 53 of the Public Health Ordinance, and the owners were called upon to reconstruct the drainage arrangements.

8.—On the outbreak of plague in May my services were placed at the disposal of the Board for the purpose of supervising the disinfection and cleansing of all plague houses throughout the colony. A detailed report of this work has been furnished, but the annexed tables C and D, which were attached to that report, are sent in again now as they have an important bearing on the work done in the redrainage of private premises. The redrainage of a large number of houses has been undertaken by the owners since the occurrence of plague in them.

9.—Water-closets have been erected to the house drains by permission of the Board or have been reconnected after the remodelling of the closets and drainage in the following premises:—

Grand Stand, Race Course; Tramway Terminus, Garden Road; Bank House, Garden Road; Nos. 64 and 66, Queen's Road Central; Gas Works, Praya West; Remedios Terrace, Arbuthnot Road; Gleneally, Caine Road; City Hall; and the Hongkong Club.

10.—Some notice is called for here of the inaccuracies of deposited plans and of the failure to properly inspect work before calling in the Board's officers. It is but too clear that in the majority of cases no attempt is made before starting the work to see what gradients may be obtained for the drains, and in the flatter parts of the city it is seldom that they can be laid throughout to the gradients indicated on the plan. No notice is given of the change of gradient and it is only ascertained on inspection. It is, too, a frequent occurrence to find a drain leaking on inspection, occasionally pipes are found to be laid without any hemp in the joints and with cement protruding in the drain through the bottom of the joint. Instances could be quoted where four or five inspections have had to be made of drains before they could be passed. I call attention to these facts as they occasion waste of time, and in the hope that those responsible will exercise more care in the future.

11.—The records which were started in 1888 have been maintained and are complete to date. —I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant.

J. ROWLAND CROOK, Sanitary Surveyor,  
H. McCallum, Esq., Secretary, Sanitary Board.

### THE POLICE REPORT.

The following report of the Captain Superintendent of Police for 1894 was laid before the Legislative Council on the 12th inst.:—

Police Office,

Hongkong, 31st January, 1895.

Sir,—I have honour to submit for the information of His Excellency the Governor the criminal statistics and the report on the Police Force for the year 1894.

1.—The statistics show a decrease as compared with the return of last year of 5.99 per cent. in the total of all cases reported to the Police.

In the sub-division of these cases into serious and minor offences, there appears a decrease as compared with last year of 5.50 per cent. in the former and of 6.25 per cent. in the latter category.

2.—Seven cases of murder came under the notice of the Police. The first occurred at the Kowloon camp, where a sergeant of the Hongkong Regiment was shot by a private of the same corps. The culprit was convicted and hanged.

The second occurred during the clan disturbances, noticed further on, which occurred in March last. The victim was shot in broad daylight in Hillier Street while carrying some merchandise. The murderer made good his escape.

The third case was a somewhat mysterious one. A woman who lived with her husband in a matshed at the Coffee Plantation was found dead on the top of Caroline Hill, near the cemetery there. The body was so decomposed that it was only identified by the clothes upon it. The husband was arrested and tried for her murder but acquitted. There is little doubt that the woman was unfaithful to her husband, and it is probable that on that account it was more than usually difficult to obtain evidence in the case from the Chinese in the neighbourhood.

In the fourth case the victim was a boat-woman, who was found dead in her boat near 'hau-ki-wan'. She was reputed to have some few dollars in her possession and it is probable that her boat was hired and taken out of reach of assistance by some ruffians, who proceeded to rob the woman and then decamped into Chinese territory. There were no marks of violence on the body, and the doctor who made the *post mortem* examination gave it as his opinion that failure of the heart due to shock was the cause of death.

In the fifth case Indian police constable No. 575 Amer Singh was shot while endeavouring to arrest one of a gang of robbers who were surprised while robbing a shop in Winglok Street. At the same time a Chinese coolie who was passing in the street was also shot dead.

One of the robbers was arrested on the spot by District Watchman Pan Hing, while a

second, who was no doubt the man who fired the shots which took such fatal effect, was captured on the Praya while running away from Head District Watchman Lam On, by a European constable and an Indian police sergeant.

Before he was secured he threw something into the harbour, and a revolver, of the same pattern as that found on his companion and as one left in the shop by another of the gang, was picked up by a diver at the spot pointed out by the Police.

In the meantime the rest of the number of four or five—it is uncertain which—escaped by the back door of the premises which opens on to the Praya. One of them was stopped by two Chinese police detectives while running not far from the scene of the robbery and arrested, as he could give no satisfactory account of himself.

Other two were arrested next morning in an opium divan. The three men were identified as having taken part in the robbery.

The trial was not concluded till the current month. The first two prisoners have been found guilty of murder and sentenced to death, and the last three of robbery, for which they have been condemned to 14 years' imprisonment.

In the sixth case a Chinese police constable was shot in the Chinese mess-room at the Central Station by an Indian constable, who, after firing several more shots in the compound, turned his rifle upon himself and committed suicide.

No motive is assignable for his shooting the Chinese constable.

4.—Twenty-nine cases of robbery with violence appear in the returns. They comprise 9 highway robberies, 9 gang robberies, 9 street robberies, and 2 robberies which cannot be classed under those three heads.

The following is a brief summary of these cases:—

#### HIGHWAY ROBBERIES.

1.—On the 10th of January a man was attacked by four men on the road between Shau-ki-wan and Stanley and robbed of money and clothing to the value of \$3.00.

2.—On the 15th of March an English maid on the Kennedy Road was robbed by two men of her watch and chain.

3.—On the 1st of May a man was robbed by a man on the Aberdeen and Stanley Road of money and clothing; value \$2.60.

4.—On the 13th of May a man was robbed by another on the Rifle Range, Kowloon, of a bundle of clothing; value \$6.00.

5.—On the 1st of June three men robbed a Chinese woman on the Shau-ki-wan Road of \$72.00. One of the robbers was arrested by the woman's jiriksha coolie, convicted, and sentenced to 12 months' hard labour.

6.—On the 18th of June one of the other two men was arrested by the Police, convicted and sentenced to 12 months' hard labour. These two cases are really therefore one and the same robbery.

7.—On the 18th of June a man was robbed by two men on the Pokfulam Road of a watch and a piece of cloth; total value \$4.00.

8.—On the 22nd of October two cattle dealers were robbed of \$46.00 on the Kowloon Road by five men, one of whom was armed with a sword.

9.—On the 19th of November a gardener from Tai-tam-tuk was attacked and robbed on the Stanley and Aberdeen Road by three men, one of whom was armed with a sword. One of the robbers was subsequently arrested and committed for trial. The case was referred back to the Magistrate and the prisoner was finally discharged. All of the above robberies took place during the hours of daylight.

#### GANG ROBBERIES.

1.—At 12.30 a.m. on the 12th of January six men, some of whom were armed with knives, entered a matshed at Tsat-tsz-mui and stole clothing to the value of \$16.00.

2.—On the 26th of January at 9.30 p.m. two men entered No. 12, Cheung Sau Lane, gagged the only occupant—a boy of 14 years—and stole a box containing clothing valued at \$74.00.

3.—On the 23rd of March at 1.30 a.m. six men, some of whom were armed with swords, entered a matshed at Wong-chuk-hang near Aberdeen, tied up and gagged the occupants, and stole property to the value of \$4.00.

4.—On the 8th of September four men, one of



addition to the acknowledgments and thanks of the Colonial Government and the Colonial community.

3.—I have already placed on record my strong sense of the firmness and gallantry which were shown in the face of the epidemic, and I can only again repeat my personal acknowledgments to those who on behalf of others risked their life and health at this trying time.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient, humble servant.

RIPON.

Governor Sir W. Robinson, K.C.M.G., &c., &c.

### EXCHANGE COMPENSATION.

We hear that telegraphic intelligence has been received to the effect that the Secretary of State has reconsidered his decision with respect to the exchange compensation to be allowed to the Hongkong civil service and has, on the representations made to him, granted the same terms to the Hongkong officials as to those of Singapore. At Singapore the terms offered, and accepted, were that half of the salary of an officer while on duty should be paid at the rate of 3s. to the dollar and that leave pay should be drawn at the rate of 4s. to the dollar. At Hongkong the offer was, payment of half salary while in the colony at 3s. and leave pay at the same rate. The majority of those affected declined the offer and represented to the Secretary of State that the Hongkong service was entitled to be dealt with on the same basis as the Singapore service. This representation has prevailed and the terms now granted and accepted are to take effect as from the 1st January, 1894. Consequently all the members of the service, except those who have been on leave, will have the satisfaction of receiving a cheque for a sum amounting to about twenty-five per cent. of their year's salary. The Governor, for instance, will receive about \$8,000, and other officers in proportion, down to the humble clerk hitherto in receipt of a hundred dollars a month, who will now get a lump sum of three hundred dollars to swell his account at the bank and will as from the beginning of the present year draw, say, \$125 a month. And the more exchange falls the better it will be for the officials, because the more dollars will they have to draw.

### SUICIDE OF A HONGKONG POLICE RECRUIT.

On Monday morning Alexander Cuthbert, a constable in the Hongkong Police Force, committed suicide at the Central Station by cutting his throat with a razor. Cuthbert was a native of Glass, Banffshire, Scotland, and was one of the ten men that arrived in Hongkong on the 9th inst. in charge of Inspector Stanton. He was a steady man, of temperate habits, and had the advantage of having a brother, who is a sergeant, in the force. He was twenty-six years of age and rather reserved. Since his arrival here he had been very quiet. He seemed to like the colony, but could not, for some reason, settle himself down to his work, and it is believed that this circumstance tended to unhinge his mind. Yesterday morning he had his breakfast about eight o'clock and a few minutes after finishing his meal he was seen to walk across the yard smoking. A short time afterwards the cook to the Europeans found him dead in one of the outhouses. His throat was cut in a shocking fashion and the windpipe severed. He was dead when found and the razor was in his left hand. The deceased was a single man and was formerly in the Army.

A short time ago, we learn from the *Progres de Saigon*, a tiger was seen not far from Mycho, in a district where no wild beasts had previously been seen for twenty years. A Customs employé was sent for by the natives and requested to shoot the animal. He was fortunate enough to get a shot at it which inflicted a mortal wound, but after receiving the shot the tiger made an enormous bound of over six yards and struck the Customs employé on the head, inflicting injuries which, though not dangerous, were serious enough to keep him in hospital for a fortnight. It is said he owed his life to the shape of his helmet, on which the tiger's claws slipped. The body of the tiger was found some time later a short distance away.

### HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

The fortnightly meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held on Thursday afternoon. Mr. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police, presided, and there were also present Hon. F. A. Cooper, Director of Public Works, Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., Dr. Hartigan, Mr. R. K. Leigh, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary). The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

#### SHEEP AND SWINE DEPOTS.

The report of the Committee of the Sanitary Board appointed at a meeting held on 31st January last to consider and advise on the management of the sheep and pig depots was read. The report recommended the alteration of the law with reference to the depots, that the keeping of cattle, sheep, or pigs intended for slaughter be forbidden in any other place than the Government depots, and the withdrawal of the authority now vested in the Sanitary Board to license places for the keeping of cattle, sheep, and pigs for slaughter. The Committee were of opinion that it was highly undesirable from a sanitary point of view that any house or place in the city, however well fitted, should be used for such purpose. The population was too dense to render it advisable. The Government depots were in the outskirts of the city, and so situated that there was no probability of the immediate neighbourhood becoming built upon or overcrowded. The Committee also suggested the making of a second entrance so as to give separate means for exit and entrance for the sheep and pigs.

Special by-laws were attached to the report, and Hon. F. A. COOPER moved the adoption of the report and by-laws. The resolution was seconded by Mr. LEIGH and carried.

#### THE OFFICES OF SECRETARY AND SUPERINTENDENT.

The CHAIRMAN moved that the office of Secretary of the Board and Sanitary Superintendent be separated, and that an additional officer be appointed to fill the office of Superintendent.

Mr. FRANCIS seconded.

Carried.

Hon. F. A. COOPER—The attention of the Government ought to be called to the urgent necessity of making the appointment at once.

#### THE REGULATION OF COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

The Acting Colonial Secretary forwarded a report by the Registrar General on the subject of Common Lodging House by-laws. The report was as follows:—

"I have the honour to report for the information of H. E. the Governor that the regulations for the registration of Common Lodging Houses have not been complied with by the persons whom they affect.

"2.—Previous to the date on which these regulations came into force, I carefully explained them to the masters and occupants of common lodging-houses or what are more commonly known as coolie houses, with a view to removing any misapprehension which might exist and to preventing any misunderstanding arising as to their object. That such misapprehension did exist was evident, for the head coolies and those who work under them were labouring under an erroneous impression that registration fees would be charged and that photographs of coolies would be required. In addition to orally informing representatives of the coolies that no fees would be charged and that no photographs would be required, I caused a Chinese notice to be drawn up to the same effect, and distributed in large numbers amongst the head men and coolies.

"3.—Having learned at the same time that a rumour was being spread that the ultimate object of the Government in introducing the regulations with regard to coolie houses was to levy a poll-tax on all Chinese resident in the colony, I caused a contradiction of this baseless fabrication to be inserted in the Chinese notice and affixed a reward to any one who could furnish information which would lead to the discovery of the persons who had put the rumour in circulation. No one has as yet shown any desire to obtain the reward.

"4.—In addition to holding several interviews with head coolies and coolies and notifying them as indicated, I also requested the leading Chinese merchants who are large employers of coolie labour to explain the position to their employees,

and urged the most influential representatives of the districts in China from which the coolies in Hongkong chiefly come to co-operate in the same direction. Both these parties report that they have complied with my request, but no head coolies have registered up to the present time.

"5.—In forwarding this report I beg to point out that I have not consulted any of the European merchants, who, either through head coolies or compradores, in many instances employ large numbers of coolies. They could no doubt render valuable assistance in this matter, and I would suggest that before any prosecutions are instituted, which, I presume, will be done at the instance of the Sanitary Board, they should be consulted either through the Chamber of Commerce or the Sanitary Board."

Appended were the following minutes:—

Dr. Hartigan.—It seems to me that the Registrar-General has fully informed the Chinese as to the nature and object of the law and it certainly should be enforced promptly, else all recent sanitary regulations will be useless.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C.—I am sorry to find, from this report, that no steps have been taken to enforce these by-laws. They came into operation, I think, on the 1st January, and, having heard nothing on the subject during the last two months, I was under the impression that they had been obeyed. I see nothing for it now but to enforce them promptly. There has been too much negotiation and too great delay. The Chinese will simply despise us. I strongly deprecate any negotiation through the European merchants and their compradores. The coolies and their head men will look upon it as a sign of weakness and indecision. The laws have been framed with every desire to bear as lightly as possible on the coolies and to consider their feelings and prejudices in every possible way, and they must now be enforced peremptorily and at once. If anything in the shape of a strike or disturbance takes place, the Government must be prepared to deport at once every head man concerned in it, or rather every head man whose coolies go out on strike, no matter how much he may protest his ignorance. Chinese leaders—compradores, coolies, and head men—all sympathise and support these movements, and it must not be forgotten that combinations and strikes for the purpose of coercing the Government to alter the laws are in the nature of seditious conspiracies. There is no resemblance between a strike to give effect to certain claims as between employer and workman and a strike the direct object of which is to compel the Government to alter or refrain from enforcing the law.

Mr. R. K. Leigh—I agree with Dr. Hartigan. The Captain Superintendent of Police—I certainly agree with Mr. Francis. There has been far too much "coolie rule" in Hongkong; hence every reform, whether sanitary or otherwise, is met with invariable non possumus from the native population. I do not think any good can be done by further negotiation and advise immediate prosecutions.

The CHAIRMAN moved that "This Board is of opinion that coolie house masters not registered should be summoned forthwith." He intended to send for a dozen of these men and tell them that the Board would not stand any more shilly-shallying, and that if they were not registered within 48 hours they would be proceeded against.

Mr. FRANCIS seconded.

Carried.

#### WATER-CLOSETS.

An application was made by Messrs. Leigh and Orange, on behalf of Messrs. D. Sassoon, Sons and Co., for permission to erect three water-closets in their offices. The following minutes were appended:—

Mr. J. J. Francis.—In order to comply with the recommendations of the Committee on the subject unanimously adopted by the Board at its meeting there must be a full report on their premises showing facts from which the Board can come to the conclusion that these offices cannot be properly worked under the bucket system. It will require a very full and very clear report indeed to convince me that closets are required. If this application is granted every set of offices in Hongkong will have an equally good claim.

The Captain Superintendent of Police—The premises seem to me to come under No. 1 of the recommendations of the Committee.

The Director of Public Works—These offices are, I believe, to a large extent used by Europeans. If this is so it seems a case in which permission should be granted.

Mr. FRANCIS moved that the report be referred back to Mr. Crook, asking him to give his reasons for recommending the granting of permission. In each case there ought to be a detailed report to show the reason why the Surveyor recommends.

Hon. F. A. COOPER proposed an amendment. The Board had publicly made known their recommendations in regard to the drainage system, and applicants, in sending in their applications ought to carefully consider those recommendations, and furnish the Board in the first instance with full details which appeared necessary. He moved that the application be referred back to



legally qualified medical practitioner might send in certificates in writing that in his opinion this and that house, naming all the houses in a street, or all the houses in the colony for that matter, ought to be destroyed, and the Board would be bound to give effect to his decision, for they have reserved no discretion to themselves in the matter, except as to the manner of the destruction; it is not even necessary that disease should have occurred in a house to ensure its destruction if any doctor happens to think fit, all that is necessary being "any sanitary reason." It can never have been intended to give such wide power to individual medical practitioners, and the word "building" must therefore have been included in the section by inadvertence. Sections 27 and 33 sufficiently deal with the question of buildings, for power to close insanitary dwellings must be considered ample. Any landlord finding his property closed and consequently rendered unremunerative would in his own interest proceed to effect such alterations even to the extent of total rebuilding, as might be sufficient to secure permission for its re-occupation.

### THE REGULATION OF COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

From the report of the last meeting of the Sanitary Board it will be observed that the by-laws with respect to common lodging houses are to be put into force forthwith. If the authorities show a firm front we do not anticipate that any serious difficulty will be encountered. It is, however, within the bounds of possibility that a coolie strike may be attempted, but in any case there must be no giving way. The probability is that there will be no active resistance to the law whatever, but that the keepers of the common lodging houses, or coolie houses as they are generally called, will, when they see the authorities are in earnest, docilely submit to the regulations. It would be a mistake to proceed on the assumption, as suggested by the Registrar-General, that the matter is one for negotiation with the coolies. It is a case for demanding and if necessary enforcing obedience. As suggested by Mr. FRANCIS in his minute published in the report of the last meeting of the Board, negotiation would be looked upon by the coolies and their head men as a sign of weakness and indecision; and as the Captain Superintendent of Police says in another minute, "there has been far too much coolie rule in Hongkong; hence every reform, whether sanitary or otherwise, is met with an invariable *non possumus* from the native population." So it will be to the end of the chapter so long as coolie rule is allowed, but let it once be clearly understood that obedience to the law will be enforced and there will be little serious attempt at resistance.

The main object of the by-laws is to enforce the registration of all common lodging houses with a view to the prevention of overcrowding and the observance of reasonable sanitary requirements. By-laws were originally passed for this purpose in 1891, but weakly yielding to the threat of a strike, the Sanitary Board postponed bringing them into operation *sine die*. The principal objections raised in the petitions against the by-laws in 1891 were to the furnishing of certificates of character by the keepers of lodging houses and the giving of security. As we remarked on a previous occasion, these objections appear absolutely frivolous, for no respectable man can have any difficulty in getting a certificate of character, while as to the security, the by-laws do not

fix the amount, which is apparently left to the Registrar-General, who would not be likely to fix it at any extravagant sum. If any real difficulty arose on this point the security might perhaps be dispensed with altogether or made merely nominal, for all that is required is the ability to get hold of the responsible man should any breach of the law be committed, and this might possibly be assured by simple registration. The Registrar-General, however, now reports that the regulations, which were supposed to have come into force on the 1st January, have not been complied with, although he has carefully explained them to the masters and occupants of the lodging houses, with a view to removing any misapprehension which might exist. Under the circumstances set out in the Registrar-General's report the only thing to be done is to institute prosecutions against any men who still fail to comply with the law after due warning.

### THE WAR.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

LONDON, 13th March.  
The Times correspondent at Peking states that China, through the medium of the American Ministers at Peking and Tokyo has already agreed to many points which will be under discussion at the peace conference. These points include the autonomy of Korea, the cession of territory, and the payment of an indemnity. The Chinese have been driven out of Denshaidai with a loss of 1,400.

LONDON, 14th March.  
Nothing is known in London concerning the Japanese conditions of peace, but the Russian newspaper *Novoye Vremya* states that Japan demands the cession of a portion of Manchuria to Moukden and the great wall.

LONDON, 15th March.  
The Peace Envoys have left Tientsin for Japan.

The Times correspondent at Kobe states that the Japanese intend to occupy the Pescadores as a base of operations against Formosa and South China.

LONDON, 18th March.  
The Japanese have captured a Chinese gunboat with a quantity of munitions of war at Newchwang.

China is soliciting the intervention of Russia and Germany to protect the integrity of her continental territory against the Japanese demands.

### SUPREME COURT.

15th March.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. A. G. WILKES.

THE PRIVILEGES OF SOLICITORS.

Mr. Dennys appeared in an action in which Harry Deans sued Solomon Isaac Danby for \$1,000 money received by the defendant from the plaintiff.

Mr. Dennys said that the day the writ was issued the defendant filed his petition in bankruptcy. Plaintiff did not consider it worth his time to remain in the colony, as he did not know what would be done in the bankruptcy. He left the colony and gave him (Mr. Dennys) power of attorney, and the defendant admitted owing the money. Mr. Dennys added that he was prepared to be sworn as to the defendant's admission.

His Lordship—Very well, you had better get into the box.

Mr. Dennys—I understand that it is always the privilege of a solicitor to be allowed to be sworn at the table.

His Lordship—I have never seen that done here.

Mr. Dennys—Of course, I do not object to going into the box, but at home it is customary for solicitors to be sworn at the table.

His Lordship—That is not the case here. You had better take your gown off.

Mr. Dennys thereupon disrobed, entered the

witness box, and gave evidence as to the admission by the defendant.

Judgment for plaintiff with costs was given.

IN CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

18th March.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. W. M. GOODMAN, ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE.

THE MURDEROUS AFFRAY BETWEEN GUNNERS.

Wariam Singh, gunner in the Artillery, was indicted for unlawfully wounding Surmukh Singh, with intent to murder him, at Lyemooon, on the 14th ult.

Hon. A. J. Leach, Acting Attorney-General, conducted the case for the Crown, being instructed by Mr. A. B. Johnson, Crown Solicitor, and the prisoner, who pleaded not guilty, was defended by Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., instructed by Mr. H. J. Holmes.

The following constituted the jury—Messrs. H. A. de Rozario, H. M. Brown, R. Park, G. V. P. de Jesus, F. X. Xavier, M. S. Northcote, and A. M. Roza Pereira.

The evidence for the prosecution was that on the 14th ult. the prisoner entered the complainant's bed room and struck him on the head with an iron chopper, inflicting very serious injuries. At the Police Court the complainant said that he did not know who struck him, but now asserted that it was the prisoner who attacked him.

For the defence several witnesses were called who stated that they did not see the chopper used, and that part of complainant's injuries were caused by falling down on some stone work.

Mr. Francis, for the defence, said there was no reasonable doubt that there was a prior disturbance between the prisoner and the complainant in the guard room, and that the prisoner snatched up the chopper in self-defence after being bullied and attacked by the complainant, who was the bully of the Company, and who threatened to "lick" the prisoner if he did not keep quiet. The only direct evidence that the prisoner struck the blow with the chopper was the statement of the complainant himself, who, there could be no doubt, was the aggressor. The complainant had contradicted his evidence, and Counsel asked the jury, if they believed that the prisoner did use the chopper, to say that he was guilty of the lesser offence—that of unlawfully wounding. But the jury could say that they were not able to find that the prisoner used the chopper at all.

The Acting Attorney-General, in reply, admitted that there was some doubt in the case. The witnesses were not Europeans; they were Asiatics, and it was well known that the veracity of Asiatics—Chinese or Indians—was of a far lower standard than the veracity of Europeans. In every case that came before the Court there would always be found a good deal of contradiction in the evidence of Asiatics.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty of unlawfully wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

The prisoner was sent to gaol for two years with hard labour.

### THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE PLAGUE WORKERS.

The following despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies is published in the *Gazette*—

Downing Street.

29th January, 1895.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 262 of the 6th of December last enclosing a copy of a letter from the Acting Chief Justice, in his capacity of Chairman of the Committee appointed at the public meeting which was held for the purpose of recognising services rendered during the recent epidemic of the plague.

I have also to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 267 of the 11th of December enclosing newspaper reports of the proceedings at the meeting and at a subsequent military parade.

2.—I have taken due note of names which are more prominently brought forward in these despatches, and I have experienced great satisfaction in bringing to the notice of the Secretary of State for War the services rendered by Major-General Barker, C.B., and the officers and men of the Garrison under his command, to whom the thanks of Her Majesty's Government are due, in



and we are pleased to have been of service to our contemporary, which on the present occasion, as in December last, faithfully echoes the opinions it has previously found expressed in this column as regards the substance of the matter in question, though on both occasions it has taken as its text trifling errors of detail on our part. As to the \$600,000 balance still requiring explanation, the Governor has given the best explanation (correction would be the more appropriate word) he possibly could give and the only one he is now likely to give. His Excellency in placing the balance at \$600,000 four months ago clearly made a mistake. It was unfortunate the mistake was not corrected earlier. His Excellency, however, seems to have thought it best to wait until the year's accounts were definitely made up and then at the earliest possible date make known the exact figures, which is all the colony is really concerned to know, for it would probably serve no good purpose to inquire too closely as to what departmental blundering caused His Excellency to err as he did. It is to the Governor's desire to correct his previous mistake that we ascribe the phenomenally early appearance of the annual statement of the colony's assets and liabilities and its issue as a separate paper. If that explanation be correct, His Excellency has acted as becomes an honourable man and upright official; if the explanation be incorrect, and the unusually early appearance of the statement, its greater fulness, and the marked attention drawn to it, are to be set down to a concatenation of circumstances with which His Excellency had no personal connection, then he is to be congratulated on having got over an unpleasant difficulty without any effort of his own. In either case we now know that the balance on the 31st December last, instead of being \$600,000, was \$450,000 only, and that this smaller sum was mainly made up of nominal profit by exchange in the conversion (on paper only) of the balance of the sterling loan into dollars, the future silver liabilities of the colony being necessarily increased in exactly the same proportion.

#### THE POLICE FORCE AND CRIME.

With a record of seven murders and nine gang robberies for one year the state of public security in the colony cannot be said to be quite what it ought to be. Mr. MAY, however, in his interesting report on the Police Force laid before the Legislative Council on Tuesday, points out that gang robberies of a similar nature to those which occurred here have been very rife at Canton, and the inference the reader is apparently expected to draw, and which is no doubt correct, is that the colony was last year affected by a wave of crime which has been sweeping over the neighbouring province. He remarks also on the extraordinary ease with which these robberies can be effected. Not only do the inmates of the shops attacked fail to offer any resistance or to raise an alarm, but after the affair is over the greatest difficulty is experienced in inducing them to assist in searching for the criminals, and even after the latter are caught the people who have suffered from their depredations evince much reluctance to identify them. After the arrest of the Winglok Street robbers the inmates of a shop that had been raided previously were asked to go up to the gall and look at them to see if the same men had been concerned in both outrages, but they "emphatically refused to do so." It seems to us that there ought to be some means of making people render what assistance may be in their power for the promotion of the ends of justice in cases such as that referred to by Mr. MAY, though it would

no doubt be difficult to draft a law that would exactly meet the circumstances. The reluctance of the Chinese to assist in the detection of crime has often been remarked upon and has engaged the attention of the Commissions that have from time to time been appointed to inquire into matters connected with the police, but it has never been fully accounted for. The loss of time to which they are subjected by having to attend at the Police Court if their evidence is required has been alleged as the reason, but it can hardly be the main reason, for even a Chinaman might be expected to have sufficient public spirit to give up an hour or two on occasion for the purpose of ensuring protection for himself and his neighbours against the operations of criminals in whose conviction he is in a position to afford assistance. If they confessed that they were afraid of the vengeance of the criminal or his friends their excuse would be more plausible. The real explanation, however, probably is to be found in the fact that the Chinaman for countless generations past has with good reason had a rooted aversion to appearing in the native yamens, that this aversion has become a kind of second nature with him, and that the difference between the courts of this colony and the Chinese tribunals is not sufficiently recognised to make them any more willing to appear in an English than in a Chinese Court. Whatever the explanation, however, the fact remains that the police are able to procure practically no assistance from the native community in the pursuit of criminals or the detection of crime.

Mr. MAY says there are two remedies to prevent the recurrence of such outrages as the gang robberies of which he gives particulars in his report. One of these remedies is to keep the Police Force up to its full strength as far as possible throughout the year, and the other, to perfect the Chinese detective branch of the Force, drawing at the same time all the assistance possible from the District Watchmen's Force, which the Captain Superintendent says should be brought into closer touch with the Police. That it is desirable to perfect the Chinese detective branch of the Force must be admitted as a matter of course, assuming it to be capable of being perfected, but the operations of the native constables must always be regarded with grave suspicion, for the men as a body cannot be looked upon as trustworthy. There have been many instances of their willingness to take bribes, and no one expects any great display of courage from them. For the prevention of serious crimes we have to look to the European and Sikh contingents of the Force, and these should always be kept up to their full strength. Important as it is that crime should be detected when it has been committed it is still more important that it should be prevented, and for that a strong and efficient Police Force is required. Some time ago there was some talk of reducing the expenditure on the Force, and there was in fact a slight reduction last year. The reduction is too small to raise any presumption that it was responsible for the increase in gang robberies, but the experience of the year shows that the strength of the Force, particularly the European and Indian contingents cannot with safety be lowered. We are glad to note, however, that the Chinese contingent, as well as the others, came in for what appears to have been a well merited commendation last year. In March serious clan disturbances took place, which resulted in one man being shot dead and several others wounded by revolver shots and knives. The affair might have assumed much more serious proportions had it not

been effectively dealt with by the Police, but as it was order was restored in four days. Sir G. T. M. O'BRIEN, who was then administering the Government, reported to the Secretary of State his opinion that the Police had acted with credit in this emergency, and Mr. MAY in his report says:—"I take this opportunity of stating that each branch of the Force well deserved His Excellency's commendation. The circumstances were such as to call into prominence the usefulness of the Chinese contingent, men displaying energy, intelligence, and courage." These are not qualities that are usually expected to be found in the lukong; when found it is right that they should be duly recognised, but if Mr. MAY allows himself to place too great confidence in the native branch of the Force he commands he will probably have occasion to regret it. Young men of generous instincts are very apt to be taken in by oriental wits, and the Captain Superintendent of Police may discover that what he considers a display of energy, intelligence, and courage may be merely a cloak for proceedings of questionable character, and that the lukong's secret sympathies are given or sold to the law-breaker rather than to the law.

#### REGISTRATION OF SERVANTS.

The registration of servants has been attempted in Hongkong, both by the Government and by private registration offices, and has hitherto invariably proved a failure. The Captain Superintendent of Police in his report for last year again refers to the matter, especially in connection with the large number of larcenies committed by servants. Last year, he says, he suggested registration of servants as a safeguard against these larcenies, and he has since recommended that the licensing of servants be made compulsory by law. "I am aware," Mr. MAY says, "that the law which formerly existed on this subject became a dead letter. But the only reason for that was the apathy of residents in this colony. It was too much trouble to spend ten minutes in registering a servant before engaging him, and so a boy who has robbed his former master, or a chair coolie who has misconducted himself and been dismissed, finds employment probably next door, where they probably repeat the same offences. I regard the licensing of private chair coolies at any rate as a most desirable and even necessary measure in the interests of law and order. The Hongkong private chair coolie is one of the most impudent and unruly members of this community, and the sole reason is that neither his master nor the police have direct control over him. If he were licensed, as a public chair coolie or jinricksha coolie is, a very great improvement would be speedily observed in his behaviour." Mr. MAY's remarks on the character of the average chair coolie will be endorsed by every one who has had any extended experience of that class. There are exceptions, of course; willing and obliging men may occasionally be found, but the majority are "impudent and unruly." If Mr. MAY can do anything to improve matters, as regards servants in general and chair coolies in particular, he will deserve the thanks of the community. And although the registration system broke down so completely it is possible, though we think hardly probable, a system of licensing conducted by the police might be attended with some success. The reason for the breakdown of the former system was very plain. If employers were apathetic in the matter it was because the system was useless. Registration had no effect whatever in raising the character of servants,



because any one was entitled to registration on application, and the interest of the Registrar-General's department was confined to making the book entries and issuing the registration certificate.

The police might display more energy in the matter than the Registrar-General's department did, but what could they do? If servants had to apply for registration, or for a licence, the police would no doubt become better acquainted with their identity, and that might prove useful in investigating cases of dishonesty. The common every day complaint of employers, however, is not that servants are dishonest, but that they are insolent, disobedient, and unruly. And in reference to these matters the police would be comparatively powerless. In cases of squabbles between master and servant it occasionally happens that there are faults on both sides. Some employers are given to ebullitions of temper that provoke insolence on the part of a servant, while others make unreasonable demands or impose unreasonable restrictions. Let it be supposed that the licensing system is in force and that an employer lodges a complaint against his servant for insolence. The mere lodging of the complaint would not be sufficient to justify the cancellation or endorsement of the servant's licence with the consequent endangerment or deprivation of his means of livelihood. There would therefore have to be something in the nature of a judicial inquiry, conducted by a responsible officer, and insolence being at the best a difficult thing to prove the chances are that the charge would break down, for the accused would always have to receive the benefit of the doubt. But apart from the uncertainty as to the issue, how many employers would take the trouble, for a case of insolence or any other small fault committed by his servant, to go to the Police Station and waste an hour or two over the matter? The majority would do as they do now, either cut the offender's wages (an illegal though sometimes effective way of dealing with such matters) or dismiss him. Disobedience of orders is, under the law as it at present stands, a punishable offence, and it is to be regretted that employers do not more frequently bring disobedient servants before the magistrate. But if employers will not avail themselves of the law as it at present stands would they be any more ready to avail themselves of a new law?

The mere licensing or registration of a servant would not be sufficient to effect his regeneration, and if it is proposed to go further and establish some machinery for adjudicating in petty disputes between master and servant we think it is doubtful policy for the Government to undertake anything of the kind. Not only is it outside the proper sphere of governmental activity, but we can conceive of circumstances—for instance, if the administration of the law should fall into the hands of an official of strong pro-Chinese proclivities—under which employers would be placed even more at the mercy of their servants than they are at present. There are some things which it is better for the Government to leave alone, and interference between master and servant, except in cases of breach of contract or the commission of some offence cognizable by the law, is one of them. If, however, there is good reason to believe that the licensing of servants would assist the police in investigating the numerous cases of larceny that occur, by all means let them be licensed, but let it also be clearly understood what the object is, and that it is not intended to introduce any system of grandmotherly control into our household relationships. And looking at the matter from that point of view it is doubtful whether

any assistance the police might derive would be worth the trouble and expense that would be entailed. If it be the case, as Mr. MAY suggests, that a boy who has robbed his master can find employment probably next door it does not say much for the efficiency of the detective department of the police. It might be more advisable to give attention to the improvement of the latter than to introduce a cumbersome system of licensing servants.

#### SANITARY BY-LAWS.

The by-laws made by the Sanitary Board under section 13 of the Insanitary Dwellings Ordinance will be submitted for the approval of the Legislative Council at its meeting on Wednesday. These by-laws were finally passed by the Board on the 4th inst. and were to have come before the Legislative Council on the 12th, but the Hon. J. J. KESWICK requested that they might be deferred, on the ground that members of Council had not had sufficient time to consider them and that he was satisfied there were several clauses which it would be necessary to alter. His Excellency thereupon fixed the 20th inst. as the date for the next meeting of Council, the Government being of opinion it was highly important the by-laws should be adopted and passed with as little delay as possible, as they involve matters of great importance to the health of the colony. If, however, there are any amendments to be proposed in the Legislative Council affecting any material principle of the by-laws it is to be hoped that due deliberation will be observed before adopting them, for much care and attention have been devoted to the subject by the Sanitary Board, whose members probably have a closer acquaintance with it in all its details than the members of Council. Strictly construed the Ordinance appears to give the Council no power of amendment, but only a power of veto. The provision is that by-laws made by the Sanitary Board "shall not take effect until approved by the Legislative Council." In case, therefore, of the Council disagreeing with the Board as to any particular by-law the formal procedure would be simply to negative the motion for its approval; but as a matter of common sense and to facilitate business the reasons for the disapproval should be stated in order that the Board might if it thought fit make such amendments as would meet the Council's views. It would be a good thing, we think, if by-laws sent up by the Sanitary Board for the Legislative Council's approval were, before the latter body takes up their consideration, published in the *Gazette* for general information, so that any parties affected might if they wished make representations with regard to them, for some of the Sanitary Board's by-laws, as, for instance, those now pending, are more important than many of the Bills which engage the Council's attention and which the standing orders require to be duly published before being passed into law.

We are unaware of the points upon which the Hon. J. J. KESWICK takes exception to the by-laws now awaiting approval, but presumably it is only on a few matters of detail, for on the whole the by-laws appear to have been framed with care and to accomplish what is required. Clause 1 provides that the entire ground surface of all domestic buildings shall be covered with at least six inches of good lime or cement concrete, finished off smooth to the satisfaction of the Sanitary Board; provided always that the Board may in its discretion exempt the owners of existing houses the floors of which have a space

between the ground floor and the ground surface from carrying out the requirements of this by-law. No. 2 requires impermeable floors for all kitchens, latrines, back-yards, court-yards, or other spaces on which slops may be thrown, and No. 3 provides that back-yards, etc., shall have a fall of  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. to 1 foot towards the drainage channel. Nos. 4 and 5 forbid obstructions in narrow streets and back-yards. Nos. 6 and 7 refer to the prevention of overcrowding and regulate the character of the partitions that are to be allowed. The next few sections refer to inspection, and here the Board has shown a desire to avoid causing annoyance by any unreasonable entry of houses by its officers. When it is desired to ascertain the number of persons housed in any particular premises for the purpose of passing the night the inspection must be made before midnight, and in no case are houses to be entered for inspection between midnight and 5 a.m. without the written permission of the Secretary countersigned by the President of the Board. No Sanitary officers other than the Secretary or Superintendent shall without written authority enter any building if the occupant thereof objects to his doing so; and ordinary inspections for the purpose of ascertaining the sanitary condition of a house are to be made between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., three hours' notice in writing being given where objection has been raised to the entry of the officer. Other sections regulate the removal of refuse. Then we come to a series of sections dealing with the occupation of basements, which we reproduce in full:—

15—It shall be lawful to occupy any cellar, vault, underground room, or basement, any side of which abuts on or against the earth or soil to the full extent of such side or sides for the purpose of a kitchen or outhouse (not intended for human habitation) or for the storage of goods only.

16—It shall be lawful to occupy any cellar, vault, underground room, basement or room any side of which abuts on or against the earth or soil as a shop provided it fronts on a street of a clear width of not less than 8 feet, but such shop shall not be used as a domestic dwelling except by a caretaker or such number of persons as the Sanitary Board may authorize in writing.

In every case where accommodation is provided for persons to spend the night in such shop, such accommodation shall be provided by the erection of a mezzanine floor, which shall have a clear space of at least four feet between it and such side or sides of the cellar, vault, underground room, or basement as abut against the earth or soil.

17—It shall be lawful to occupy as a domestic building any cellar, vault, underground room, basement, or room any side of which abuts on or against the earth or soil, provided the ground against which such cellar, vault, underground room, or basement abuts is not more than 4 feet above the floor level, and provided also that for the remainder of the height of such cellar, vault, underground room, or basement the ground is at least 4 feet from the external wall of such cellar, vault, underground room, or basement.

The succeeding sections refer to the removal of persons suffering from contagious diseases, or the bodies of persons who have died from such diseases, the cleansing and disinfection of the premises, bedding, clothing, furniture, etc.

Section 25 reads as follows:—

If in the opinion, duly certified in writing, of a duly authorised officer of the Sanitary Board, or of a legally qualified medical practitioner, any building, bedding, clothing, furniture, or other article cannot be effectively disinfected or ought for any sanitary reason to be destroyed, it shall be destroyed in such manner and in such place and with such precautions as the said Board may from time to time direct.

The inclusion of the word "building" in the above section appears to be a mistake, for section 27 provides that premises which cannot be thoroughly disinfected, cleansed, or made safe shall be vacated and shall not again be occupied without a special order from the Board; so that by this section destruction of buildings is not contemplated. And by section 33, also, it is provided that houses unfit for human habitation even although cleansed and disinfected may be closed, but no mention is made of their destruction. But according to section 25 any



no possibility of getting men who could do the work satisfactorily elsewhere.

The house to house visitation could never have been conducted in the satisfactory manner it was without European Police who could speak Chinese, and without Chinese Police who could speak English, to act as interpreters for the soldiers and others engaged on the work who did not know the Chinese language.

Nor could the work at the Tungwah and Plague Hospital have been carried on without assistance from all three branches of the Force, nor could the disinfecting and cleansing operations have been effected by the men of the Royal Engineers and Shropshire Light Infantry as smoothly and free from opposition as they were but for the presence of Police with the men at the commencement of the operations and until the soldiers and the Chinese population had become thoroughly accustomed to each other.

For the four months from the middle of May to middle of September there were 6 European Police, 2 Indians, and 17 Chinese regularly employed on plague work, and there were 14 Europeans, 11 Indians, and 13 Chinese engaged on the same work for periods varying from one to three months. These men all volunteered for the duty.

During the whole of that time not a single complaint was made against any one of those men, although they were daily occupied in carrying out measures which were very distasteful to the Chinese population.

An immense amount of extra work was thrown by the plague on the Police who were not employed under the Sanitary Board. This work, although often of an extremely disagreeable nature, was cheerfully undertaken by one and all.

In short, the work done by the entire Police Force during the plague and the manner in which it was done are deserving of the highest praise, and merit the thanks of the community.

The demand for Chinese-speaking European Police was very great, and I regret to say that the supply was not equal to the demand.

Chinese is such an unattractive language that it is extremely difficult to induce men to take up the study of it.

I have hesitated to recommend that it be made compulsory, lest such a condition, superadded to the low sterling value of the pay, should make recruiting at home more difficult, but I intend to make such a recommendation as soon as opportunity offers for doing so without risk of prejudice to other interests.

Neither was the supply of English-speaking Chinese Police and Chinese and English-speaking Indians sufficient.

Increased attention to the Police School is the remedy for this.

10.—The year so fruitful in extraordinary occurrences produced the only economic strike that, as far as I am aware, has ever occurred in this colony.

On the 16th of October the carpenters and joiners in the colony struck for higher wages and diminished hours of work. They did not state what increase of wages they wanted, but they asked that their hours of work should be from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. with one hour off in the middle of the day all the year round, instead of from 7 a.m. to dusk in winter and 6 a.m. to dusk in summer and only half an hour off in the middle of the day. The masters of carpenters' shops and contractors refused to grant these terms and the men went out on strike.

The strikers were, of course, not interfered with till they put themselves on the wrong side of the pale of the law by interfering with certain carpenters who had returned to work.

This led to arrests and convictions, and the strike ended without the strikers having gained their object. It lasted in all two weeks and a half.

11.—The Dogs Ordinance has continued to work smoothly. During the year 1825 dogs were licensed on payment of the fee and 32 as watch dogs. 61 strayed and unclaimed dogs were destroyed. Only 11 cases of dog-bite were reported to the Police, which shows a marked decrease on the number in previous years.

12.—Complaints on the part of the public have, as in the year 1893, been chiefly directed to the annoyance and interruption to traffic caused by cracker firing and Chinese processions in the streets. I have to repeat the opinion that the granting of permits for these native amusements

should be placed in the hands of the Executive Police.

It seems not only anomalous but distinctly unfair to this department that without any previous reference to it by the organisers of such demonstrations (who, in this case, I understand, were a mixed committee) the city should be allowed to be invaded by a host of processionists as it was on the occasion of the Feast of Lanterns in March last, when the crowd was so dense in the Queen's Road that not only was all chair and jinricksha traffic suspended, but pedestrians were unable to force their way through the seething mass of holiday makers.

During an entire forenoon brokers and other business men were unable to pursue their business avocations, and the Police placed in the streets to endeavour to keep order were overwhelmed in the flood of human beings that not only filled the entire roadway but covered the pavement on both sides of it.

Complaints against mendicancy in the streets and the regulation of traffic have not been so frequent.

An attempt has been made to improve the latter by establishing stands at convenient places for chairs and jinrickshas.

Very little success has attended the efforts to keep pedestrians, and especially coolies carrying burdens to the sides of the roads.

Nothing but increased carriage traffic will, I fear, effectually keep them off the roadways.

13.—The conduct of the Force during the year has on the whole been very satisfactory, although I regret to say that one sergeant and one temporary acting sergeant were reported for intemperance. The latter was dismissed.

The number of reports made against European members of the Force was 74—the same as last year.

Of these 10 were for drunkenness as against 19 in the previous twelve months, 3 for disorderly conduct, assault and fighting, and 3 for sitting down on duty as against 9 and 7 respectively in 1893. On the other hand there were 12 reports for neglect of duty, and 10 for asleep on duty (one man was reported twice for the latter offence) as against 5 and 6 in the previous year.

Against men of the Indian contingent there were 214 reports as against 278 in 1893.

Of these 18 were for drunkenness as against 25 in 1893; 25 for disorderly conduct, assault, and fighting as against 27, 41 for neglect of duty as against 51, 17 for absence from duty or beat and late for duty as against 56, 31 for gossiping, sitting down, and idling on duty as against 23, 15 for asleep on duty as against 16, 5 for leaving beat before being relieved as against 9.

Amongst Chinese constables there were 397 reports as against 363 in 1893.

It must be mentioned, however, that the Chinese Force was kept up to its full strength throughout the year.

I regret to say there were two cases of drunkenness. The increases were in 161 reports as against 115 in the previous year for the offences of absence from duty or beat and late for duty, and in 6 reports for leaving beat before being relieved as against 1 report for this offence in 1893.

There was a decrease of from 54 to 35 for gossiping on duty, sitting down, and idling on duty, and from 52 to 48 for asleep on duty. 1 European constable was convicted by the magistrate for assault. 1 Chinese constable of allowing a prisoner to escape. 1 Chinese of unlawful possession of a bag of sugar, and 4 Chinese (a Water Police boat's crew) of misconduct as police constables in trying to extort money.

14.—A batch of recruits was obtained from the London Metropolitan Police, and has on the whole given very great satisfaction.

Twelve recruits were obtained from India and have given great satisfaction.

Very little recruiting was done for the Chinese Force, vacancies being filled up from the Water Police and recruits taken on temporarily for that branch in order to enable the necessary reduction to be made at the end of the year in view of the introduction of the system of substituting steam pinnaces for rowing boats for policing the harbour.

A trial was made of selection by competitive examination in the Chinese language.

The experiment was not a success. The Chinese that offer themselves as recruits are as a rule so illiterate that but small distinction could be drawn between their attainments.

15.—I attach a report on the Police School by Messrs. Arthur and Jameson. The latter had

charge of the school for nine months during the former's absence on leave.

The translation of the new Instruction Book has caused much delay and the book is not yet out of the hands of the printer.

Five members of the European Force obtained certificates from the Board of Examiners for knowledge of Chinese. One passed the third and highest standard. He has since been transferred to the Post Office as first clerk.

Fourteen Indians obtained certificates for knowledge of Chinese, and three Indians and one Chinese for knowledge of English.

16.—The health of the Force has been very satisfactory. The admissions to hospital were compared with last year, as follows:—

	1893.	1894.
Europeans .....	134	127
Indians .....	255	244
Chinese .....	133	134

I attach a list showing the number of fever cases sent to hospital from each station. It will be seen that the Aberdeen Station is by far the most unhealthy station and the figures for it demand serious attention. Every European and Indian stationed there during the year contracted fever, and only three Chinese (including servants) escaped catching it.

The number of deaths from ordinary causes is the same as last year. No death occurred among the Europeans. Of the four Indians whose deaths are recorded two committed suicide and one was shot on duty, while of the eleven Chinese that died seven were claimed by the plague and one was shot by an Indian Police constable.

17.—The Indian messes have proved a success, and there are messes now established at all the Stations except Pokfulam, Aberdeen, Stanley, Shauiwan, Hunghom, and the Block House, Fuk-tsun-heung.

18.—I have drawn attention in a separate report to the unsatisfactory condition of the barrack accommodation in the eastern and western districts, and I have also recommended the building of additional bath-rooms and of a drying-room at the Central Station. Improvements in those directions are urgently required, and I trust that it may be found possible to carry out my recommendations at an early date.

It has been found possible during the year to improvise drying-rooms at Nos. 1, 3, and 7 Stations, Yau-mati, and Aberdeen. The men at those stations are now able to dry their uniform and clothing in wet weather, and it is probable that the improvement in the health of the force is partly attributable to this cause.

Japanese hot water baths, which are self-heating, being furnished with a charcoal stove, were supplied to the following stations:—

Central, Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, Mount Gough, Aberdeen, Stanley, Yau-mati, Tsim-tsa-tsui, Hungham, Shan-ki-wan, and the men were instructed to take a hot plunge when returning wet and cold off duty at night or in the early morning.

The men have used the baths to a fair extent, and will no doubt use them more as they become accustomed to and learn to appreciate them.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

F. H. MAY,

Captain Superintendent of Police.

The Honourable the Acting Colonial Secretary.

### THE HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY, LIMITED

The half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of this Company was held at the Hongkong Hotel on Saturday, the 16th inst., at noon, Mr. Ho Tung presiding. There were also present Messrs. W. Parfitt, R. C. Wilcox (Directors), J. C. Peter, Douglas Jones, C. Mooney (Secretary), and a number of Chinese shareholders.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and statement of accounts for the half year ending 31st December last having been in your hands for several days, I will, with your permission, take them as read. It is very satisfactory to me, notwithstanding that we are unable to declare a dividend, to be able to inform you, as is set forth in the report, that the half year just referred to shows, after paying off the large amount of interest from the profit and loss account, a credit balance of \$576.92 against a debit



balance of \$10,397.17 as compared with the corresponding period in the previous year. The receipts accrued for the first two months of the current year exhibit an increase in comparison with those earned in the preceding year, and it is only to be hoped that we may continue to enjoy the benefit of this improvement in the ensuing months. The directors, contrary to the usual custom in vogue in this colony, have thought it advisable this time for the information of shareholders to lay before them in the present report a more lengthy statement of the Company's affairs by detailing therein the revenues from various sources under separate headings, and comparing their results with those of the previous year. With the exception, however, of two items, the billiard account and the steam launch account, they all, I am glad to say, indicate an increase for the better. Taking, therefore, all these facts together I have no hesitation in saying that the shareholders must all feel very much pleased with the report, which I will ask them to adopt later on. The directors, as pointed out to you at the last meeting, have adopted with advantage many remedial changes in the working of this fine establishment with the view of increasing receipts and reducing expenditures, and I can assure you that we are following a policy in which neither pains nor efforts will be spared to make the hotel attractive to visitors and the public in general and also a lucrative concern for the shareholders. Our new manager, Mr. E. J. Richardson, appears to be a hard working and painstaking man, and I hope that he will soon make himself thoroughly acquainted with the requirements and needs of the hotel. Personally, I have not the least doubt in my mind that under an attentive and a good management, prompt always to further any steps which may tend to promote the interest of the hotel, and to stop any defects which may be productive of a result *vice versa*, this Company must undoubtedly prosper, and that it will be able to pay a moderate dividend before very long. I must not detain you any longer, and before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions any shareholder may wish to address to me.

The CHAIRMAN—As there are no questions I beg to propose that the report and accounts as presented be adopted and passed.

Mr. PARFITT—I beg to second that.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—The next business is the re-election of a director. I regret to say that on account of my state of health and pressure of my other business I cannot offer myself for re-election. Mr. Osborne will be here in a few weeks, and he is a very energetic member of the Board. On the motion of Mr. DOUGLAS JONES, seconded by Mr. PETER, Mr. W. Parfitt was re-elected director.

Mr. PETER proposed, and Mr. IP CHEE FONG seconded, the confirmation of Mr. Wilcox as director.

Carried.

Messrs. W. H. Potts and W. H. Gaskell were re-elected auditors on the motion of the CHAIRMAN seconded by Mr. PARFITT.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, that is the whole of the business of the meeting. I thank you for your attendance, and I hope before very long the Company will be able to pay a dividend to the shareholders.

### GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

The sixth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the Green Island Cement Co., Limited, was held on Thursday at the offices of Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg and Co., Praya. Mr. R. Shewan presided, and among those present were Messrs. J. Orange, Geo. Fenwick (Directors), J. Kramer, J. H. Cox, E. Goetz, L. Snidter, and W. H. Ray.

The SECRETARY (Mr. Snidter) read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, there is nothing of special interest to add to the report. You have had it in your hands for the last two or three days, and I ask your permission to take it as read. Full particulars of the position of the Company were given to you at the extraordinary meeting, and since that time the change of

management then agreed upon has taken place. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be happy to answer any questions put by shareholders.

No questions were asked and the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts. Mr. RAY seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. I have to thank you for your attendance.

The following are the report and accounts submitted to the meeting:—

To the shareholders of the Green Island Cement Company, Limited.

Gentlemen,—We have to report to you on the Company's working during 1894.

The year commenced under favourable auspices and the factory was well employed until the outbreak of the plague in Hongkong and the political troubles in the North compelled us to partly reduce the productions owing to the slackness in the demand and the high price of fuel.

Sales for the year aggregated to \$168,381.55 and the working account on the 31st December shows a profit of \$10,084.09.

Over \$5,000 have been spent during the year for the re-lining of our buckets and for replacing part of the cement grinding machinery, and this sum has been written off on working account.

Buildings and machinery have been kept in good repair and the quality of the cement produced has been of the highest standard.

We annex the balance sheet for 1894 showing the financial position of the Company on the 31st December, 1894.—We remain, gentlemen, your obedient servants,  
ARNHOLD, KARBERG & Co.,  
General Managers.

Hongkong, 28th February, 1895.

#### BALANCE SHEET, 31ST DECEMBER, 1894.

ASSETS.		\$	c.
Properties account:—			
As per balance sheet, 31st December, 1893	436,906.13		
Reclaimed land:—			
As per balance sheet, 31st December, 1893	16,832.46		
Buildings and machinery:—			
As per balance sheet, 31st December, 1893	240,283.30		
Sundry properties:—			
As per balance sheet, 31st December, 1893	7,643.84		
Furniture account	3,226.85		
Cash:—			
At head office and in Macao	702.63		
Stocks:—			
Raw material	\$12,944.70		
Coal	2,894.00		
Stores	25,788.32		
In manufacture	31,564.11		
	73,495.13		
Cement in consignment	885.06		
Sundry debtors	2,424.60		
Profit and loss account	78,030.11		
	\$860,524.11		

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital account:—			
14,117 fully paid shares	\$703,850.00		
5,883 forfeited shares	59,220.00		
Unpaid capital	234,930.00		
	\$1,000,000.00		
Debt account	50,000.00		
Sundry creditors	45,454.11		
	\$860,524.11		

#### WORKING ACCOUNT, 31ST DECEMBER, 1894.

Dr.		\$	c.
Manufactured stocks on 31st December, 1893		14,577.00	
Raw material used in 1894	\$18,840.28		
Coal used in 1894	55,518.12		
Stores used in 1894	5,254.80		
Labour	20,723.70		
Packing	19,619.34		
Macao general expenses	3,048.99		
Royalty to Bishop	1,800.00		
Macao salaries	17,919.05		
Freight and transport	16,110.24		
Head office general expenses	710.99		
Legal expenses	62.00		
Advertising, &c.	87.50		
Audit fees	200.00		
Salary to General Managers	5,000.00		
Commissions	8,673.56		
	173,588.57		
Profit and loss account. Profit in 1894	10,084.09		
	\$198,249.66		

Cr.		\$	c.
By cement account, sales during 1894	166,381.55		
Manufactured stocks, 31st December, 1894	31,868.11		
	\$198,249.66		

#### PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, 31ST DECEMBER, 1894.

To balance, 31st December, 1893	\$32,425.24
To interest account:—	
Interest on debentures	\$4,000.00
Interest to Banks, etc.	1,688.96
	5,688.96
	\$38,114.20
By working account	\$10,084.09
By balance, 31st December, 1894	78,030.11
	\$88,114.20

### CHINA SUGAR REFINING CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the annual general meeting to be held at the offices of the General Agents, at noon on Thursday, 28th March:—

The General Agents now submit to the shareholders their report on the Company's business for 1894, with the accompanying statement of accounts to 31st December last.

The usual course of business was much interfered with in the first half of the year under review by the extraordinary drought and subsequent visitation of plague, the financial effect of which was felt acutely after the month of June. On these calamities there followed the China and Japan war, which restricted sales in the latter country, so that the results of the year's operations do not equal those of the preceding year, although the figures, in view of the disasters referred to, prove the substantial hold which the Company's produce has on the consuming markets.

An interim dividend of \$3 per share was paid on 27th August last, amounting to \$159,298.30; inclusive of this and of \$16,373.49 brought forward from 1893 the net profit amounts to \$150,833.12, which the General Agents and Consulting Committee recommend should be appropriated as follows, viz.:—

Interim dividend of \$3 per share paid	
27th August	\$159,298.30
Final dividend of \$1 per share, making \$12 for the year	80,000.00
Carry forward to next account	11,534.12
	\$25,832.42

The water supply scheme referred to last year has now been begun, and towards it there has been appropriated one half of the premium on new shares, viz., \$62,500, which with \$100,000 appropriated in 1893 provides \$162,500 towards this great necessity.

The remaining one half of the premium on new shares has been written off property account, as the profits of the year do not admit of any appropriation therefrom.

#### CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

The Consulting Committee consists of Hon. E. B. Behlhos, Messrs. F. A. Gomes, D. R. Sassoon, A. G. Wood, and St. C. Michaelsen, all of whom offer themselves for re-election.

#### AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Fullerton Henderson and Atwell Coxon, the latter acting in the absence of Mr. Thomas Arnold; Messrs. Arnold and Henderson offer themselves for re-election.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., General Agents.

Hongkong, 13th March, 1895.

#### CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Paid-up capital	2,000,000.00		
Sundry creditors	3,346,572.02		
New water supply	162,500.00		
Balance of profit and loss account	250,833.12		
Less interim dividend at 8 per cent. paid on 27th August, 1894	159,298.00		
	91,540.12		
	\$5,600,612.14		

#### ASSETS.

Property account, consisting of:—		\$	c.
East Point Refinery			
Bowrington Refinery			
Swatow Refinery			
Hongkong Distillery			
Site at Soo-kun-poo			
Cash	345.08		
Stocks of raw and refined sugar, &c.	2,372,966.27		
Spirits and rum	6,472.98		
Coals, charcoal, stores, fire insurance, &c.	338,186.54		
Sundry debtors	261,526.14		
Shipments	1,003,855.92		
	\$5,600,612.14		

#### PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

		\$	c.
To balance at debit on 31st December, 1893	\$1,678,278.90		
Less written off last year	25,000.00		
	1,653,278.90		
To new machinery and extension	18,940.31		
To cost of reservoir site at Soo-kun-poo	8,040.00		
	\$1,680,259.21		
By amount written off from premium on new shares	62,500.00		
By balance at date	1,617,759.21		
	\$1,680,259.21		



March 20, 1895.]

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PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.		\$	c.
To commission .....	28,012.93		
To remuneration to consulting committee .....	2,500.00		
To auditors' fees .....	500.00		
To interest account .....	44,415.42		
	\$75,428.35		
To interim dividend at 8 per cent. paid on 27th August, 1894 .....	159,298.00		
	\$234,726.35		
To net balance .....	91,540.12		
	\$326,266.47		
By balance of profit and loss, carried from last year .....	16,373.49		
By net gain on working .....	309,892.98		
	\$326,266.47		

## THE STRAITS INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

The following is the eleventh annual report for presentation to the shareholders at the eighteenth ordinary general meeting, to be held in the Company's offices, Singapore, on the 21st March:—

To the shareholders of the Straits Insurance Company, Limited.

Gentlemen,—Your directors beg to place before you the annexed balance sheet for the year ended 31st December, 1894. The accounts have been adjusted at the exchange of 2½ per dollar.

1894.—The net premiums for the year 1894 amount to \$925,709.81 (£100,235.47.) on which claims have been settled up to 31st December last, amounting to \$393,970.28 (£32,930.23.).

Commissions and expenses amount to \$172,541.93 (£18,692.01.), of which \$15,000 is special expenditure. The balance of \$449,197.60 (£48,863.15.) is carried forward.

1893.—The settlements on account of 1893 and previous years amount to \$115,051.45 (£11,963.18.). The balance remaining after closing the account, \$49,115.32 (£5,201.68.) has been transferred to profit and loss account.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.  
The interest on investments amounts to \$62,834.29 (£6,807.01.). After deducting 7½ per cent. dividend (\$45,000) paid in 1894, there remained a balance at credit of profit and loss account of \$134,871.98 (£14,811.27.), from which the following appropriations have been made:—

To reserve fund .....	\$20,000
To underwriting suspense account .....	\$40,000
leaving a balance of .....	\$74,871.98

The Board now recommend that there be declared a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the year 1894, amounting to \$80,000 and that \$14,871.98 (£1,611.27.) be carried forward to new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.  
On his departure from the colony Mr. A. N. van Gilse van der Pals resigned his seat at the Board, and his place has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Lee Cheng Yan. Mr. Puttjarcken having also resigned, his place has been filled by the appointment of Mr. D. C. Neave.

In accordance with the provisions of clause 105 of the Company's articles of association, Mr. D. C. Neave and Mr. Lee Cheng Yan retire from the Board, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.  
In accordance with clause 146 of the Company's articles of association, Mr. J. Lyall and Mr. R. Dunman retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

T. C. BOGAARDT, } Directors.  
T. S. THOMSON, }

Singapore, 7th March, 1895.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st DECEMBER, 1894.		\$	c.
Dr.			
To capital fully subscribed, 30,000 shares at \$100 .....	3,000,000.00		
To capital paid-up .....	600,000.00		
To reserve fund .....	140,000.00		
To exchange and investment fluctuation reserve .....	121,234.62		
To unclaimed dividends .....	703.18		
To sundry creditors .....	4,293.22		
To underwriting suspense account .....	40,000.00		
To dividend equalisation account .....	30,000.00		
To balance of working account, 1894 .....	449,197.60		
To balance of profit and loss account .....	74,871.98		
	\$1,460,210.6		

On the opposite side of the account are shown cash, investments, and real estate to the same amount.

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1894.		\$	c.
Dr.			
To net premiums from 1st January to 31st December, 1894, after deducting reinsurance and return premium .....	925,709.81		
	\$925,709.81		

Cr.		\$	c.
By head office charges .....	26,771.00		
By branch and agency charges .....	18,230.43		
By commissions .....	23,263.92		
By directors', committees' and auditors' fees .....	8,878.87		
By losses and claims paid .....	303,970.28		
By compensation to employes .....	15,397.71		
By balance .....	449,197.60		
	\$925,709.81		

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.		\$	c.
Dr.			
To balance at 31st December, 1893, profit and loss .....	\$62,599.37		
Less dividend 7½ per cent. .....	45,000.00		
	17,599.37		
To balance of working account at 31st December, 1893 .....	464,166.77		
To interest on investments .....	62,834.29		
To transfer fees .....	253.44		
To profit on investments realised .....	5,069.96		
	\$549,923.43		

Cr.		\$	c.
By claims, re-insurances, and return premiums paid on account 1893 and previous years .....	415,051.45		
By transfer to underwriting suspense to close 1893 account .....	40,000.00		
By reserve fund .....	20,000.00		
By balance .....	74,871.98		
	\$549,923.43		

## FOOTBALL.

### HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB v. THE NAVY.

The racecourse on Monday afternoon presented an animated appearance, upwards of 700 people being congregated round the field of play. Before commencing the belligerents were photographed, first separately, afterwards together. A fast game was expected, the turf being in the pink of condition and the weather sufficiently cold to permit half an hour's play each way. The Navy kicked off and immediately set to work in a pertinacious way to work the ball up. A fine kick by Thomson relieved pressure, but for a few seconds only, as Powlett returned in his usual style. After a few minutes a succession of scrums took place in mid field, from one of which Matheson managed to get in a good dribble, which was stopped only a few yards from the uprights, and shortly afterwards Perry sent the ball up by the same means and looked as if about to score; a stumble, however, dispersed the hopes of the Club's followers, as the ball was pounced upon by the Navy and sent into safer territory. A good pass from De Vitre gave the ball to Perry, who ran up well, with Anton just by his side to give assistance if needed, and scored the first try for the Club. Anton took the kick, but a slight breeze deflected the ball to a few inches outside the post. The Navy now began to play with great vigour and some very nice passing between Shelford, Powlett, Arbuthnot, and Blount rejoiced the hearts of the spectators. In one of these exhibitions Arbuthnot made a capital run and the path was left quite open in front, but behind Landale showed his running powers by overtaking and collaring in such a way as to elicit a hearty round of applause. Leatham now began to be very troublesome and to cause much anxiety, as whenever he could get a fair start with the ball a great deal had to be put in his way before bringing him down. In one of these runs he burst through all opposition until he reached the Club's back, who made a good though fruitless attempt to stop him, and thus the first try for the Navy was scored. The somewhat difficult kick was taken by Peel, who sent it over the bar. Half-time was now reached, the Navy leading by one goal to a try. After the change of ends both teams played their best; the Club also put more energy into the scrummages and seemed to overweight their opponents. De Vitre frequently made incursions and helped much to keep the ball in the Navy's half. Matheson soon after the restart made a splendid run, but Hale stopped his progress and showed himself a trusty back. Landale also made a brilliant attempt and looked like scoring, but having to make a swerve on reaching Hale, Leatham was enabled to overtake and weigh down. Shelford now was very prominent and with great agility managed to dodge all opposition and take the ball right under the bar. The kick was entrusted to Peel, who converted a second time for the Navy. The Club after this kept the ball much in their opponents' twenty-five

and Perry though surrounded on all sides took a magnificent drop-kick, which struck the bar, rebounding into play, where Bowring picking up managed to take into in-goal. The ball, however, had to be taken back, and was scrummaged a few yards from the goal-line. Shortly afterwards Perry took another drop-kick, which sailed a few yards to the left of the post. Bowring again forced his way into in-goal and fell, together with several Navy players, so that nothing was awarded. Then Potts made an onslaught first dribbling the ball past Hale, afterwards picking up, and thus obtaining the Club's second try very near the corner. The kick was taken by De Vitre, and was a most difficult one to essay; the ball went a few feet only from the desired direction amidst much approbation. A smart run again by Shelford, who as half had been much assisted by Skelton, was stopped just in the nick of time by Thomson. The Club now right to the end strained every muscle in order to avert defeat, but the whistle blew with the Navy's score of two goals or 10 points to the Club's score of two tries or six points.

### ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

The thirteenth Club race was sailed in a good whole sail breeze on the 10th inst and resulted in a win for the *Payne*, the first she has scored this season.

Course—From the Submarine Mining Pier, Wellington Barracks, round Channel Rocks, White Fairway Buoy, and Stonecutters' Island (leaving all to starboard); 13 miles.

#### STARTERS: FIRST CLASS.

<i>Payne</i> .....	Royal Engineers
<i>Dart</i> .....	Dr. Lowson
<i>Ladybird</i> .....	Mr. C. D. Wilkinson
<i>Erica</i> .....	Mr. A. Denis
<i>Stella</i> .....	Capt. Stirling

#### SECOND CLASS.

<i>Elfin</i> .....	Mr. G. P. Lammert
<i>She</i> .....	Mr. C. H. Gale
<i>Seabreeze</i> .....	Surg.-Major Westcott

The wind was easterly and very light at the start. *Dart* and *Ladybird* got away first. *Stella*, on coming about for the line, missed stays and had to wear round, which made her some minutes late. On clearing the *Meane* the wind freshened into a fine steady breeze which lasted the rest of the day. The ebb was setting strongly down the Hongkong shore. *Dart*, by standing into Kowloon Bay lost the tide and the Channel Rocks were rounded in the following order:—*Payne*, *Erica*, *Ladybird*, *Dart*, *Stella*. Spinners were set to port and a very quick run was made to the Fairway Buoy. *Payne* was going strong and increased her lead. *Ladybird* passed *Erica*.

On rounding the Fairway Buoy it was a broad reach to the west point of Stonecutters'. On hauling to the wind round Stonecutters' *Dart* passed *Ladybird* and *Erica*.

*Payne* won easily and the race finished as follows:—

	H.	M.	S.	
<i>Payne</i> .....	1	56	24	10 marks
<i>Dart</i> .....	1	57	46	4 "
<i>Erica</i> .....	1	59	21	1 "
<i>Ladybird</i> .....	2	2	14	
<i>Stella</i> .....	2	5	35	

#### SECOND CLASS.

	H.	M.	S.	
<i>Elfin</i> .....	2	15	51	10 marks
<i>She</i> .....	2	18	22	4 "
<i>Seabreeze</i> .....	2	31	59	1 "

The marks gained are as follows:—

<i>Dart</i> .....	84	<i>Elfin</i> .....	51
<i>Erica</i> .....	53	<i>She</i> .....	46
<i>Payne</i> .....	18	<i>Kitten</i> .....	29
<i>Stella</i> .....	15	<i>Seabreeze</i> .....	11
<i>Petrel</i> .....	15	<i>Mary Ann</i> .....	1
<i>Ladybird</i> .....	3		

A remarkable meteor appears to have been recently observed in Japan. The *Kobe Chronicle* of the 7th inst. says:—We learn that the meteor seen on Monday morning by a number of persons near Kobe was also seen from the *Catterthun*, which was at the time approaching this port through the Inland Sea. From the deck of the vessel the meteor appeared like a ball of fire, and was very brilliant, notwithstanding that it was a bright sunshiny morning. It left behind it a trail of smoke which was visible for twenty minutes or half an hour. We learn from a telegram in the *Osaka Mainichi* that the meteor fell near Tokushima, but exactly where is not known. It is described as a great fire-ball with a long trail of smoke and made a great noise as it rushed through the air.



## HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

## SHORT RANGE CUP AND SPOONS.

In spite of the wet weather there was a large attendance of members on Saturday. The Cup was won by Mr. W. M. Deas and the Spoons by Sapper Thompson, Mr. Klinck, Colour-Sergt. Shearing, Colour-Sergt. Horseman, and Captain Palmer. The following are the best scores:—

Name.	200 yards.	300 yards.	To H'cap Gd.	points.	total.
Mr. W. M. Deas	29	27	56	10	66
Sap. Thompson, R.E.	29	29	53	6	64
Mr. Klinck	21	23	49	15	64
C. Sgt. Shearing, R.B.	30	29	59	4	63
C. Sgt. Horseman, R.B.	30	27	57	4	61
Capt. Palmer, O.S.D.	30	26	56	4	60
Sapper Pritchard, R.E.	28	26	54	4	58
C. Sgt. Hopkins, R.B.	27	26	53	4	57
Private Godbear, R.B.	23	25	53	4	57

## CRICKET.

## ROYAL NAVY V. RIFLE BRIGADE.

This match was played on Wednesday and resulted in an easy victory for the Rifle Brigade. For the Riflemen Mr. Lysley's innings was a fine display, while two or three others did well. Mr. Garde for the Navy was doing well when he was run out by as smart a piece of fielding as has been seen here for some time. The bowling of Pte. Lee was very noticeable, his analysis showing only 30 runs for 7 wickets. Score as below:—

## RIFLE BRIGADE.

L. Sanderson, b Powlett	17
Sergt. Burton, b Powlett	31
C. W. Knox, b Elliott	1
Sergt. Shearing, b Elliott	1
H. D. Power, b Sheldford	12
G. Lysley, not out	57
A. D. Boden, b Elliott	10
Capt. Eccles, st. Garde, b Froude	33
C. Percival, b Sheldford	9
G. Paley, b Elliott	4
Pte. Lee, c Thomas b Elliott	4
Extras	14
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## ROYAL NAVY.

FIRST INNINGS.		SECOND INNINGS.	
Lt. L. H. Coxon, c Burton, b Lee	1	b Eccles	8
E. B. Garde, run out	29	c Lysley, b Eccles	41
Lt. F. A. Powlett, b Lee	3		
M. M. C. Elliott, c Boden, b Lee	15	c Paley, b Sanderson	0
C. R. Blount, b Lee	5	not out	0
Lt. Sir E. K. Arbuthnot, c Paley, b Lee	7		
Lt. T. Sheldford, c Power, b Lee	2		
W. D. Morecam, not out	17	b Sanderson	33
Lt. E. Leatham, b Lysley	0		
W. S. Froude, b Lee	0		
M. A. Thomas, c Power, b Shearing	8		
Extras	7	Extras	11
	91		93

## THE AUDIENCE.

The Imperial New Year's Audiences passed off this year with more than the usual freedom from restraint. Each Minister, with his staff, was received separately and the Emperor spoke with unaccustomed freedom. Prince Kung was the mouthpiece and conversed with dignity and knowledge. As for the Emperor himself, he is described as physically weak, with a sallow and unsympathetic countenance and the most marked thing about him was an air of sadness. His answers were, however, intelligent, and his voice was full and sonorous, and altogether, apart from a certain nervous air, the impression made was favourable. He is slight, with a sallow complexion and a large lower jaw, and at first sight his appearance is by no means prepossessing. His voice is, however, full and almost musical, and he took an intelligent interest in his surroundings. The central figure of the Audience was, however, Prince Kung, who exhibited an aptitude for affairs with which he has not hitherto been credited. Each Minister was accompanied by his secretaries and interpreters, so that the ceremony marked distinctly a new departure, which augurs well for the future.—*Mercury*.

According to the native papers, says the *Mercury*, many officials of Peking, fearing the approach of the Japanese, have petitioned to be allowed to visit their homes on the excuse of having aged parents to look after. This has occasioned the reversal of the old proverb, "The filial son is generally found in the poor family, and the faithful officer is found in time of war." This is now rendered, "The filial son is shown in time of war, and the faithful officer appears amongst the poor."

## LIUKUNGTAO.

By a private letter lately received from one of the foreigners who was at Liukungtao during the fight with the Japanese, several interesting details are gathered. Referring to the Chinese soldiers the letter states that they were the most abject cowards, throwing themselves on the ground and absolutely refusing to fight. As many as twenty soldiers were decapitated in one morning for refusal of duty, but even this would scarcely induce the others to even make a pretence of fighting. All the resistance that was made was done either by the sailors of the fleet or the foreigners.

Another factor was the intense cold experienced. The soldiers were not prepared for such weather, and suffered terribly, huddling together wherever they could find shelter for the sake of the warmth of each others bodies. Even some of the foreigners suffered from the cold, few of them having clothing adequate for their needs. After the sinking of the ships, by which the wardrobes of several of the foreigners were lost, this suffering became more severe.

Admiral Ting made no secret of his intention to commit suicide before surrendering, and when he sent out the first letter asking for terms, he called such of his officers, Chinese and Foreign, as were handy, and bade them farewell, distributing his personal effects among them as souvenirs. He then stated his fate and declined to listen to any expostulations, calmly carrying out his determination when ready. During all the fighting the Admiral had been wherever the fire was hottest, and the writer says that, in view of what he finally did, he feels sure he hoped to be killed in action.—*Mercury*.

## HONGKONG.

The subject mostly talked about during the week was the cold weather which has been experienced in Hongkong for some days. The change was sudden and not a few people suffered a cold in consequence. The upward tendency of the dollar has been a source of gratification. On Thursday afternoon the Sanitary Board met and resolved to prosecute coolie house masters who were not registered. The annual report of the Sanitary Surveyor was laid before the members. On the same day the annual meeting of the Green Island Cement Co., Limited, was held, and on Saturday the shareholders of the Hongkong Hotel Co., Limited, held their half annual meeting. The Secretary of State has decided to grant members of the Hongkong Civil Service half their pay at the rate of 3s. to the dollar while on duty and leave pay at 4s. to the dollar. On Friday evening the Volunteer dance took place in the City Hall and proved a great success. On Monday morning P.C. Cuthbert who arrived in Hongkong only recently, committed suicide at the Central Police Station. At the Criminal Sessions on Monday Wariam Singh was sent to prison for two years for unlawfully wounding a gunner in the Asiatic Artillery. On the evening of the same day St. Patrick's Day was celebrated by a most enjoyable dance at the City Hall.

H.M.S. *Redbreast* arrived on Monday from Bangkok.

There were 1,705 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week of whom 124 were Europeans. The Cattle Diseases, Slaughter-houses, and Markets Ordinance Amendment Ordinance has been confirmed.

The members of the Institute of Engineers and Shipbuilders have issued invitations for a dance on the 29th inst.

The death rate last month was for the British and Foreign community (civil population) 18.3 and for the Chinese, 17.1.

The maximum temperature last month was 72.3, on the 27th, and the minimum 49.3, on the 6th. The rainfall amounted to 0.835 inch.

We understand that fifty fees have just been paid for the Oxford Local Examinations (Senior and Junior) and thirty-three for the Preliminary Examination, which is a new institution this year.

The Board of the New Balmoral Gold Mining Co., Limited, on Friday received applications for a total of 7,108 shares. All tenders above \$5 per share were allotted in full and 50 per cent. of those at \$5.

The British bark *Alcedes*, which left Hongkong on the 18th December last, arrived at New York on the 10th inst., thus making the voyage in 82 days. We believe this is the fastest run ever made by a sailer from here to New York.

On Saturday afternoon the O. & O. steamer *Coptic* was opened to the public, and a large number of ladies and gentlemen visited this fine ship. She replaces the *Oceanic* in the China and American service, and sails for San Francisco on the 20th inst.

The "cold snap" of the last few days must have proved rather trying to the influenza patients. On the 14th inst. the maximum temperature was 76 and the minimum 70. At 10 a.m. on Sunday, according to the Observatory register, the temperature was 48.

We have received through Dr. Kerr, of Canton, a Chinese work, in two volumes, entitled "Essentials of Obstetrics." Translated by Dr. Wan Tan Mo, for the Medical Missionary Society, Canton. Translations of European medical works into Chinese must be of incalculable benefit to the nation, and the activity displayed at the Canton Hospital in this direction ought to afford satisfaction to the numerous friends of that excellent institution.

We regret to have to report the death of Captain Harris, of the Douglas steamer *Namoa*, which occurred at Amoy on Friday night. Captain Harris had been in bad health for some time and on the last voyage of the steamer was compelled to remain behind at Amoy, suffering from inflammation of the bowels, and peritonitis afterwards set in. He leaves a widow and young family, for whom much sympathy will be felt. Captain Harris, who had held a command in the Douglas Company for the last twelve years, was esteemed by all who knew him and the members of the British Mercantile Marine Officers' Association only a few weeks ago elected him their President.

The prospect of a plentiful water supply is brighter than it was at this time last year. It will be remembered that twelve months ago we experienced a prolonged drought, and it was considered by many that the low state of the reservoirs had not a little to do with the spread of the plague. Just now, however, the reservoirs contain a very good supply, and the outlook for the period until the regular summer rains commence is of a reassuring character. The supply is now almost double what it was at the corresponding period last year. Of course it behoves everyone to see that the water is not wilfully wasted, particularly by the Chinese servants, who are very negligent in this respect.

We have received the Directory for Bangkok and Siam published at the *Bangkok Times* Office. It is somewhat late, but is no doubt on that account more correct, as so many changes take place at the beginning of the year. Besides the Directory proper it contains a great mass of useful information, Treaties up to date, Rules of International Court, tables of exchange, historical, statistical, and commercial information, etc. It is clearly printed, but not over well read, as we notice a "Declaration of Friendship" made between Siam and Japan on "the 23rd day of January of the Christian Era." But such minor defects do not detract from the usefulness of the book to those having business relations with Siam.

A most enjoyable dance was given by the Hongkong Volunteer Corps at the City Hall on Friday evening. His Excellency Lieut. General Barker arrived at half-past nine and was received by a guard of honour, composed of representatives of the Field Battery and the Maxim Gun Company, drawn up in the entrance hall. Dancing was commenced immediately afterwards and with the number of uniforms of all arms of the service, the rooms presented an exceptionally brilliant appearance. St. George's Hall and half of St. Andrew's Hall were used for dancing, the other half of St. Andrew's Hall being reserved for refreshments. The decorations were of a martial character, guns being placed here and there, while the walls were adorned with stars of bayonets, the doorways and windows being also draped with flags and bannerets, while on the staircase the principal feature was a sand battery. For this department we understand Sergeant Coyle and Private Hopkins were mainly responsible. The gallant Volunteers were most attentive hosts and made all their guests thoroughly enjoy themselves.



The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial Hospital begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the hospital:—

Part proceeds theatrical performance per	
Miss Barker	\$25
Fong Sien Ting	25
Chas. V. Lloyd	10
If trade with China is falling off in one direction it is being pushed in others. A foreigner is advertising in the <i>Chung Ngai San Po</i> (Chinese Daily Press) for giants not less than eight feet tall, and for "any persons double-headed, four-footed, three-eyed, or jointed together, and in fact any with a peculiar freak of nature."	
The following statement shows the receipts on account of the Plague Fund up to the 12th March:—	
Subscriptions	\$7,703.45
Cheque (Mr. Blayney)	97.83
Concerts at Canton (per Mr. J. J. Francis)	224.89
Interest	6.82
Total	\$8,033.09

## CANTON.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGAI SAN PO."] The new Hoppo, who was reported as being on his way down from Shanghai the other day, arrived at Canton on the 14th inst. by the steamer *Fushun*, via Hongkong. At Hongkong he landed for a short time and had an audience with the Governor and Colonial Secretary. The *Fushun* will take back with her to Shanghai as a passenger the Provincial Judge, who will proceed from that port to Peking before taking up his new appointment in Honan Province.

On the 13th inst. the new Governor Ma Pi-in, the Judge, Lui King Tactai, the Superintendent of the Arsenal, and other military officials went on board a gunboat and proceeded to U-chu and Sha-lo, where they examined the iron gates which were formerly erected by Chang Tsi-tung when he was Viceroy of the Liang Kwang. It is said that the object of the visit was to repair these iron gates, so as to prevent the coming in of foes, but that the Viceroy Li Han-chang had an audience with the officials named on the 15th inst., in which he advised them to report the project to the Throne first.

Admiral Cheng Shiu Chung has ordered the erection of a third building in Fatshan for manufacturing the toi-cheong or "two-man" guns. As he has decided to finish 100,000 pieces at the end of the third moon, almost all the blacksmiths in the city are in the employ of the Government in executing the order.

As many cases of breaking coffins and stealing clothes and valuable ornaments therefrom have been reported to the Pun Yu Magistrate of late, a notice was posted up several days ago offering a reward of \$100 to anyone who may secure the arrest of such robbers, and \$50 to his assistants.

The total amount of the war loan contribution collected up to the 10th inst. was Tls. 2,328,500, the sum collected during the last five days being Tls. 127,000. On the 12th inst. the officials called a meeting of the seventy-two guilds with the intention of raising a portion of the loan from them, but as only twenty persons attended no resolution was passed and the meeting was adjourned.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

While out shooting near Cape St. James Saigon, the other day, a French soldier was accidentally shot dead by a comrade.

At Shanghai on the morning of the 14th inst. fire was discovered in the second floor of the building the lower part of which is occupied by Messrs. Mondon & Co. on the French Concession. The origin of the fire, which occurred in a storeroom, is a mystery. The alarm was soon given and thanks to the good offices of a number of British man-of-war's men, the flames were confined to the store-room only. The sailors, finding the supply of water in the house insufficient, obtained some blankets, which they dipped in the Yangkingpang creek and with them smothered the fire. The firemen put in an appearance, but only the French company played on the flames, the others not being required. The damage was not extensive, though the ceiling of Messrs. Mondon's store was spoilt by the water. Owing to the promptitude of the bluejackets there is no doubt that a serious conflagration was prevented.

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* of the 2nd instant announces the death on the 23rd ultimo of Mr. William Bellingham, the first editor and proprietor of that paper. The funeral took place on Sunday, 24th February. During the ceremony the flags of the various Consulates were half-masted, and the British Municipal flag was flown at half-mast for three days. Mr. Bellingham was sixty years of age, but it was only in 1892 that he came to China, while on a trip to the colonies via China, for the benefit of his wife's health. Mr. Bellingham stayed at Tientsin, where he was induced to undertake the editorship of the *Peking and Tientsin Times* when that paper made its appearance a little more than a year ago. Throughout his life Mr. Bellingham appears to have been closely connected with journalism, and the paper which he conducted with so much ability since its existence thus concludes a biographical notice of him:—"The many who will miss him greatly will endorse the sentiment of one of his friends. It is not often that anyone comes to the East for the first time at so advanced an age. Old residents become changed in the course of many years stay here. He was our only sample of an old gentleman of the English type." Mr. Bellingham took peculiar interest in all movements affecting the lower classes. He loved the people, and it was in this spirit that he came to sojourn among the Chinese, determined to see them on their best side and to find something to like in them. He will be mourned not less by the lowly Chinamen of his household than by many who count themselves his friends. At an Eastern port comings and goings are for the most part sudden, the tide of life, much more than elsewhere, is ever in restless flux and change, the stay of most of us is precarious and short. Mr. Bellingham will be remembered as one who, coming unexpectedly, his stay most brief, his departure most sudden and on a most solemn voyage, has left behind a memory so fragrant, so pure, and so worthy that it will linger long."

## COMMERCIAL.

TEA.  
EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1894-95	1893-94
	lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao	7,597,185	8,178,734
Amoy	772,692	720,993
Foochow	13,777,348	21,329,281
Shanghai and Hankow	21,591,498	25,514,030
	43,738,723	55,743,038

## EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1894-95	1893-94
	lbs.	lbs.
Canton	3,532,680	1,349,192
Amoy	18,651,820	19,652,332
Foochow	8,140,519	5,883,106
Shanghai	25,783,527	24,176,826
	56,108,546	51,061,456

## EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1894-95	1893-94
	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai	22,555,223	21,619,462

## EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1894-95	1893-94
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	28,686,847	28,523,737
Kobe	16,726,614	17,082,752
	45,413,461	45,611,489

## SILK.

SHANGHAI, 14th March.—(From Messrs. Cronie and Burkill's circular).—London telegrams dated 12th current report the market "dull." Gold King are quoted 7/7½ and Blue Elephant 9/3. Raw Silk.—The business transacted during the week has been on a small scale, the demand for all classes being very slight. Quotations show hardly any changes. Tsatlees.—Settlements amount to about 300 bales at unchanged rates. Gold Kilings have been taken at Tls. 325 and Tls. 327½. Taysaam.—Woosies are in small request. Yellow Silk.—Have become quieter, but rates remain the same. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns from the

7th to the 13th March, are 425 bales of White and 98 bales of Yellow Silk. Re-reels and Filatures.—100 bales have changed hands at quotations, of which 30 bales are Re-reels and 70 bales Filatures ordinary reel. Wild Silks.—No transactions reported. Waste Silk and Pongees.—No business.

Purchases include:—Tsatlees.—Gold Elephant at Tls. 392½, Mountain 4 at Tls. 370, Bird Yungling at Tls. 360, Gold Kiling at Tls. 325 to Tls. 327½, Double Silver Elephant at Tls. 325 to Tls. 327½, Blue Phoenix at Tls. 321½, Dollar S.S.S.S.S. at Tls. 285. Taysaam.—6/12 Moss Double Butterfly 2 at Tls. 295 to Tls. 297½, do. Green Stork 3 at Tls. 292½. Yellow Silk.—S'tung Skeins Gold Tiger chop 2 at Tls. 280, Meeyang at Tls. 222½ to Tls. 230, Fooyung at Tls. 205. Filature.—Buffalo chop 1, 2 and 3 at Tls. 460, Tls. 450, and Tls. 440, Fan Chop 1 and 2 at Tls. 437½ to 427½. Re-reels and—Market chop No. 4 at Tls. 310.

## EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1894-95	1893-94
	bales.	bales.
Canton	12,888	14,501
Shanghai	46,265	46,872
Yokohama	19,298	17,189
Total to date	78,451	78,562

## EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1894-95	1893-94
	bales.	bales.
Canton	6,568	2,784
Shanghai	7,357	2,510
Yokohama	23,342	13,886
	37,267	19,230

## CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 19th March.—Greater firmness has characterised the market during the past week and prices have recovered a little. Quotations for Formosa are \$44.50 to \$45.00. During the past week sales have been 150 piculs. Quotations for Japanese camphor are \$47.50 to \$48.00. Sales 100 piculs.

## SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 19th March.—Stocks are large and prices have further declined. Following are the quotations:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White	\$7.35 to 7.40 per picul.
do. " 2, White	6.87 to 6.90 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown	4.72 to 4.80 "
do. " 2, Brown	4.60 to 4.62 "
Swatow, No. 1, White	7.30 to 7.35 "
do. " 2, White	6.76 to 6.80 "
do. " 1, Brown	4.50 to 4.52 "
Swatow, No. 2, Brown	4.30 to 4.32 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	10.70 to 10.75 "
Shekloong "	9.29 to 9.32 "

## MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The P. & O. steamer *Japan*, Hongkong to London, 5th March, took:—10 bales Feathers, 4 cases Cigars, 50 bales Waste Silk, 142 bales Canes, 50 cases Bristles, 22 cases Rattanware, 33 cases Blackwoodware, 212 cases Chinaware, 736 rolls Matting, 700 bales Hemp, 10 cases Vermilion, 1 case Silks, 7 cases Cigars, 720 cases Preserves, 210 cases Preserves, and 32 packages Sundries; for Marseilles:—50 cases Cassia; for Buenos Ayres:—100 packages Tea.

The steamer *Ernest Simons*, Hongkong to Continent, 6th March, took:—266 bales Raw Silk, 200 bales Waste Silk, 9 bales Hair, 4 cases Silk Piece Goods, 20 cases Essential Oil, 10 cases Cigars, 6 rolls Matting, 8 packages Private Effects, and 4 cases Samples; for London:—180 bales Waste Silk and 2 cases Silk Piece Goods.

The German steamer *Hertha*, Hongkong to Havre, 6th March, took:—2 cases Silk, 10 cases Essential Oil, 200 boxes Staranised, 1 case China Ink, 7 cases Human Hair, 217 bales Canes, 40 cases Chinaware, and 2 packages Sundries; for Havre option Hamburg:—20 cases Bristles, 100 boxes Staranised, 12 bales Canes, 263 boxes Camphor, and 50 bales Feathers; for Havre option Hamburg option London:—510 cases Camphor and 20 boxes Bristles; for Hamburg:—30 bales Rattansavings, 12 cases Human Hair, 68 boxes Essential Oil, 400 cases Cassia Buds, 225 packages Canes, 401 bales Feathers, 1 case Silks, 463 cases Camphor, 100 boxes Staranised, 138 cases Bristles, 50 boxes Vermilion, 134 rolls Matting, 150 cases Gallnuts, 22 packages Rattan Chairs, 6 boxes Ginger, 8 cases China Ink, 16 cases Paper, 257 packages Merchandise, and 24 packages Sundries; for Hamburg option London:—2 cases Bristles; for London:—99 boxes Camphor.



The American ship *Sintram*, Hongkong to New York, 8th March, took:—12,400 packages Cassia, 2,729 rolls Matting, 2,188 packages Fire Crackers, 1,000 bales Hemp, 825 packages Rattanware, 333 packages Rattanware, 328 cases Fans, 312 bales Strawbraid, 210 packages Preserves, 200 cases Saigon Cassia, 200 Cassia Buds, 111 bales Skeins, 100 cases Soy, 95 cases Joss Sticks, 91 bales Wool, 79 cases Chinaware, 75 packages Canes, 10 cases Paper, and 176 packages Sundries.

The German steamer *Prinz Heinrich*, Hongkong to London, 8th March, took:—10 boxes Treasure (\$406,262); for Port Said:—2 boxes Curis; for Amsterdam:—70 cases Ginger, 20 cases Ten Sticks, 106 cases Chinaware, 20 rolls Matting, 26 cases Preserves, and 2 cases Sundries; for Hamburg:—20 packages Merchandise, 625 packages Fire Crackers, 10 cases Cigars, 20 boxes Essential Oil, and 50 cases Staranised; for Antwerp:—200 boxes Staranised, 10 cases Blackwoodware, 105 bales Bamboo Scraps, 9 cases Merchandise, 75 rolls Matting, 25 cases Bristles, and 75 bales Tobacco; for Genoa:—8 bales Hemp and 1 case Cigars; for Bremen:—17 cases Private Effects, 27 packages Merchandise, 2 cases Earthenware, 4 packages Tallow, 2 cases Preserves, 1 case Cigars, and 98 rolls Matting; for Smyrna:—25 cases Essential Oil; for Rotterdam:—25 bales Tobacco; for Milan:—5 bales Waste Silk.

The P. & O. steamer *Rohilla*, Hongkong to London, 14th March, took:—4 bales Waste Silk, 19 cases Silks, 80 packages Canes, 69 rolls Matting, 4 cases Bristles, 1 case Medicine, 1 case Pictures; for France:—300 bales Raw Silk, and 4 cases Silks; for Milan:—60 bales Raw Silk.

#### OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 19th March.—Bengal.—A spurt took place early in the interval and a few sales were made at prices ranging from \$777½ to \$767½ for New Patna and from \$730 to \$720 for New Benares. Since then a lull ensued and rates have dropped to \$757½ for New Patna and \$715 for New Benares. Old Patna and Old Benares have been entirely neglected and are quoted nominally at \$740 and \$715 respectively.

Malwa.—Has under gone some improvement in consequence of favourable advices from India. Current quotations are as under:—  
New ..... \$690 with allow'ce of 0 to 1 cts.  
Old (2 to 4 yrs.) \$710 " 0 to 2 "  
" (5 to 7 yrs.) \$720 " 0 to 1½ "

Persian.—A small advance has taken place in the rates for Paper-wrapped Opium. The other description has not met with much attention. Closing quotations are \$720 to \$750 for Oily and \$750 to \$795 for Paper-wrapped kinds according quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—  
Old Patna ..... 1,430 chests.  
New Patna ..... 1,180 "  
Old Benares ..... 1,130 "  
New Benares ..... 180 "  
Malwa ..... 900 "  
Persian ..... 1,000 "

#### COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1895.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Mar. 13	755	720	700	725	690	710/720
Mar. 14	777½	720	720	745	690	710/720
Mar. 15	778½	740	730	742½	690	710/720
Mar. 16	767½	740	720	742½	690	710/720
Mar. 17	767½	740	720	742½	690	710/720
Mar. 18	762½	740	715	735½	690	710/720
Mar. 19	757½	740	715	730	690	710/720

#### RICE.

HONGKONG, 19th March.—The market remains firm, and prices show a slight rise. Closing quotations are:—

	per picul
Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.10 to 2.13
" Round, good quality	2.30 to 2.32
" Long	2.40 to 2.42
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2	2.18 to 2.21
" Garden, " No. 1	2.49 to 2.52
Siam White	2.95 to 2.98
" Fine Cargo	2.20 to 3.22

#### MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 19th March.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

COTTON PIECE GOODS.—*Bombay Yarn*.—735 bales No. 10 at \$68 to \$76.50, 665 bales No. 12 at \$70 to \$73, 160 bales No. 16 at \$76 to \$80, 650 bales No. 20 at \$81.50 to \$85.50. *English Yarn*.—25 pales No. 40 Eagle and Bee at \$112.50. *White Shirts*.—15 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.45, 500 Secas X at \$20.45, 600 pieces Gold Tiger at \$5.70,

500 pieces X 7 at \$3.90, 250 pieces No. 50,500 at \$4.50, 150 pieces EF at \$6.30. *Grey Shirts*.—500 pieces 11 lbs. D. Blue Dragon at \$3.75. *T-Cloths*.—1,800 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. 4 Dragon and Flag at \$2.12½, 500 pieces 6 lbs. Bombay at \$1.65, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Blue Dragon at \$2.15. *Turkey Reds*.—250 pieces 3½ lbs. Swallows at \$2.05, 200 pieces 3½ lbs. Swallows at \$1.92½. *Long Ells*.—250 pieces Scarlet House Chop at \$7. *Camlets*.—50 pieces Scarlet Women and Baby at \$16.50.

METALS.—*Lead*.—5,000 piculs Australian at \$0.08½. *Yellow Metal*.—25 cases Elliott 16 ozs. at \$24.50. *Tin*.—250 slabs Foong Choi at \$36.70, 100 slabs Siam at \$36.50.

#### COTTON YARN.

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20	\$61.00 to \$86.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24	96.00 to 100.00
" 22 to 24	101.00 to 105.00
" 28 to 32	108.00 to 114.00
" 38 to 42	116.00 to 125.00

#### COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece
Grey Shirts—6lbs.	1.40 to 1.50
7lbs.	1.85 to 2.05
8.4 lbs.	2.40 to 3.10
9 to 10 lbs.	3.25 to 3.60
White Shirts—54 to 56 rd.	2.10 to 2.30
58 to 60 "	2.60 to 3.10
64 to 66 "	3.20 to 3.60
Fine	3.90 to 6.20
Book-folds	3.50 to 5.20
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.60 to 1.35
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.40 to 1.50
7lbs. (32 " )	1.80 to 1.90
6lbs. (32 " ), Mexs.	1.60 to 1.70
7lbs. (32 " )	2.05 to 2.25
8 to 8½lbs. (36 in.)	2.20 to 2.90
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ to 4lbs.	3.20 to 4.20

#### FANCY COTTONS

Turkey Red Shirts—1½ to 5lbs.	1.30 to 2.70
Brocades—Dyed	3.90 to 4.95
Damasks	0.13 to 0.17
Chintzes—Assorted	3.07 to 0.12
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.21 to 0.32
Velveteens—18 in.	0.18 to 0.24

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.45 to 0.85
WOOLLEN S	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	0.55 to 0.85
German	0.95 to 1.10
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.	1.20 to 2.60

Long Ells—Scarlet	6.50 to 7.80
Assorted	6.60 to 7.90
Camlets—Assorted	14.00 to 29.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted	13.50 to 21.00
Orleans—Plain	3.70 to 4.90

Blankets—8 to 12lbs.	4.50 to 9.00
METALS	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	3.25 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar	3.20 to 3.25
Swedish Bar	4.75 to —
Small Round Rod	3.55 to —
Hoop	4.60 to —
Old Wire Rope	3.00 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	6.50 to —

Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/28 oz.	26.25 to —
Vivian's, 16/32 oz.	25.75 to —
Elliott's, 16/28 oz.	25.50 to —
Japan Copper	24.50 to —
Tin	37.00 to —
Tin-Plates	6.00 to —
Steel	5.50 to —

SUNDRIES AND COALS.	per picul
Quicksilver	117.50 to 118.00
Window Glass	3.20 to —
Kerosene Oil	1.80 to —

SHANGHAI, 15th March.—(From Mr. G. W. Noel's report.)—The s.s. <i>Tungchow</i> returned from Tientsin yesterday, being the first and only one of the first flight of steamers to put in an appearance yet. There was some delay in getting up the Peiho on account of the drift ice, but apparently there was no necessity to hurry, so far as the market was concerned, for, as anticipated, all the means of transport there are so disorganised the dealers are afraid to do anything much, their difficulties being added to by the strict cash terms which sellers are imposing. However, her stay was so short there was scarcely time for much to be done before she left, but the following, which were a few of the opening prices, may give some idea of what the market is like.— <i>Grey Shirts</i> .—8.4 lbs.—Niskie Blue Fish Tls. 1.85, Red 2 Lion and Flag Tls. 1.92 and Red Pagoda Tls. 2.15. <i>White</i>	
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Shirts. —64-reed.—Taiwo Blue Stag Tls. 2.35, Koongling Gold Cock Tls. 3.08, American Sheetings.—Blue Joss Tls. 3.15, Deer Head Tls. 3.18 and Indian Head Tls. 3.35. American Drills.—Pepperell Dragon Tls. 3.35. American Jeans.—Pepperell Beaver Tls. 2.75. English Jeans.—Taiwo Blue Stag Tls. 2.20. That the dealers are not altogether dispirited is shown by the fact this same steamer leaves here to-morrow morning with some 3,000 packages, almost entirely piece goods. The same complaint has to be made again as last year about the delay in publishing the particulars of the cargoes by the Customs, only one of the five steamers carrying piece goods having appeared yet. The import cargoes are, also, very much behind at present. There has been very little fresh business done this week, the only thing of any importance being the settlement of 6,000 bales Pepperell Drills for this market, but whether they have been placed or not has not transpired yet. The low prices at which they were offered proved too tempting, and as it is understood the manufacturers decline to sell any more than this quantity, that was ready in stock, at the same price, they should not do any harm, but it is rather rough on holders here, and it remains to be seen if the Indian Head Sheetting policy of last year will not be repeated. Business conducted in that way is apt to make importers over cautious, and our friends in the States should remember the adage, once bitten twice shy! For the rest there is scarcely anything of interest to report, the position being widely different from that prevailing last year after the opening of Tientsin. The Japanese are in possession of the foreign settlement of Newchwang, so they will probably endeavour to re-organise business there, but this will of necessity take some time to accomplish, as not only have nearly all the traders decamped from the place but the surrounding country seems to be more or less in a state of anarchy. H.E. Li Hung-chang is supposed to be leaving to-day on his mission to Japan, but it still seems very doubtful whether he will accomplish the desired object, although it is freely rumoured that the Chinese are willing to accede almost anything. The prices realised at auction yesterday for Cottons were not very satisfactory, but this morning's sale showed a steady to firm feeling for Grey goods; the same, however, cannot be said for White Shirts, and Woollens, also, were easier. The Manchester market is firmer, apparently in sympathy with Cotton, which has recovered to 3½d. Most makes of Shirts are up 1½d., in fact full rates have to be paid for all actual requirements. A few indents have gone through, but the business is comparatively insignificant.

Metals and Miscellaneous.—(From Mr. Alex. Biefield's report.)—15th March.—Settlements "to arrive" are:—125 tons L.B. Lead, 100 tons Bar Iron, 2,000 boxes Tinplates, 100 lbs., 100 boxes Tinplates, 108 lbs., 1,500 boxes Bamboo Steel Double Horse chop, 50 tons Old Telegraph Wire, 250 tons Steel Plate Cuttings, 150 tons Bar Croppings, 200 tons Scrap Iron, all private terms, and spot 20 tons Signal Wire at Tls. 2.10, 25 tons Telegraph Wire rejection at Tls. 1.70, 13 tons do, at Tls. 1.75. Business in Lead and Nailrod "spot" has been of retail character. Nearly 10,000 piculs Pig Iron were entered from the 1st, mostly for the Arsenal. Tinplates figure with 4,500 piculs under imports. 50 casks Zinc Sheathing were put up at auction, but offers elicited not being over Tls. 9.20 were withdrawn. 100 casks Wire Nails, each 100 lbs., fetched Tls. 4 at auction.

#### JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 19th March.—Rates have ruled firm during the week under review, the chief feature in the market being the continued demand for Lands. Market closes firm generally with an upward tendency.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai during the early part of the week under review ruled somewhat easier and shares changed hands at 144 per cent. prem., sellers readily meeting any demand. Towards the close, however, a better feeling prevailed and a demand at 145 for the end of the month failed to bring out sellers. At the time of writing shares have changed hands at 145 per cent. prem. for cash, and market closes firm with an upward tendency at that rate. The latest quotation from home by private advices is £35 firm with an upward tendency. Other Bank stock is neglected at quotations.

MARINE INSURANCES.—All Marines have been neglected but close firm at quotations. We have no business to report.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have changed hands in small lots at \$175. Chinas are enquired for at \$77 without bringing out sellers.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao have ruled steady with further sales at \$30, but



more shares can be obtained at the rate. Indo-Chinas have improved their position with sales at \$38 to \$39, closing firm at latter rate. China and Manila, after presentation of the report to the shareholders, failed to maintain their position and sellers at \$63 meet with no response; probably a point or two lower would be accepted. Douglas's have continued to rule weak during the period under review, the weakness culminating in a sale at \$50; more shares are wanted at the rate, but none seem forthcoming; the weakness may be attributed to the fear of Japanese interference in Formosa, and the consequent dislocation of trade in the island. China Mutuals are enquired for in a small way at £7 for Prefs.

**REFINERIES.**—Chinas continue out of favour and the rate has fallen without sales to \$135. After a long period of inaction Luzons, on the strength of a good report and a 3 per cent. div., have been negotiated at \$48, market closing firm at that rate.

**MINING.**—The market has ruled dull and with the exception of a further rise in Balmorals to \$5.90 with sales at that, \$5.25, \$5.50, and \$5.75 we have nothing of interest to report. The unallotted shares in this Company were put up to tender during the week and were all disposed of at \$5 and over. Punjoms and Raubs have changed hands in small lots at quotations.

**MISCELLANEOUS.**—Lands have continued in strong demand, chiefly for the outports, and hares have changed hands in fair quantities at 55, \$56, and \$57, and at time of writing there are no sellers under the last named rate. Docks after sales in the early part of the week at \$83 per cent. premium close firm with reported sales at \$85. Electrics and Green Islands have changed hands at quotations, the latter closing firm. A. S. Watsons have found further buyers at \$9.50 and are still inquired for at that rate.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
<b>Banks—</b>		
Hongkong & S'hai.	\$125	145 p. ct. pm., sales
China, Japan, &c...	\$25.0	nom.
Do., Founders.....	\$1	nom.
Nat. Bank of Ch.		
B. Shares.....	\$8	\$20½, sellers
Found. Shares.	\$1	n m.
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	\$1	10
Do.	\$8	\$8, buyers
Brown & Co., H. G...	\$50	no sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$1	2
China Borneo .....	\$55	nom.
China Sugar .....	\$100	\$135
Chinese Loan '86 E.	Tls. 250	11 p. ct. pm.
Dakin, Cruick's & Co.	\$5	\$1
Dairy Farm Co. ....	\$10	\$5.25, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$15, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$0	\$64, sales
H. Brick & Cement.	\$250	1, buyers
H. & C. Bakery .....	\$5	\$36
Hongkong & C. Gas.	\$20	\$125, buyers
Hongkong Electric...	\$8	\$4.75, sale & sellers
H. H. L. Tramways.	\$100	65
Hongkong Ice.....	\$25	\$76
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	35, sales & buyers
Hongkong Rope.....	\$10	\$130, sales
H. & W. Dock.....	\$125	85 p. ct. pm., sales
<b>Hotels—</b>		
Hongkong Hotel...	\$50	\$9, buyers
Shameen .....	\$20	4
<b>Insurances—</b>		
Canton .....	\$50	\$157½
China Fire .....	\$20	\$77, sales & buyer.
China Traders' ...	\$5	\$65, sales
Hongkong Fire .....	\$50	\$175
North-China .....	\$25	Tls. 207½, sellers
Straits Marine.....	\$0	\$22½, sellers
Union .....	\$5	\$152½, buyers
Yangtze .....	\$50	\$93, buyers
<b>Land &amp; Building—</b>		
H. Land Investm't	\$50	\$56, sales & buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	8
Humphreys Estate	\$10	10
West Point Buildg.	\$40	\$15, sellers
Luzon Sugar .....	\$100	\$48, sales
<b>Mining—</b>		
New Balmoral.....	\$3	\$5.90, buyers
Charbonnages.....	\$131.58	\$75, sellers
Jebeu .....	\$5	\$4.2, sales & buyers
Punjom .....	\$8½	\$5.90, sales
Do. (Preference)	\$1	\$1.75
Raubs .....	13s. 10d.	\$4, buyers
<b>Steamship Coys.—</b>		
China & Manila ...	\$50	\$63, sellers
Douglas S. S. Co...	\$50	\$0, sales & buyers
H., Canton, & M...	\$20	\$30, sales & sellers
Indo-China S. N...	\$10	\$39, buyers
W'chai Warehouse Co.	\$37½	\$37½
Watson & Co., A. S...	\$10	\$9.50, sales & buyers

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 15th March:—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s report.)—Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—The market continued quiet until yesterday, when a transaction was put through at 141 per cent. premium. Shipping.—Shanghai Tug Boat Co., Ltd.—Shares have been sold at Tls. 130. Indo-China S. N. shares have changed hands at Tls. 26½ and Tls. 28, and Hongkong, Canton, & Macao Steamboat shares at \$28 to \$28½. Docks.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. were placed at Tls. 135. Marine Insurance.—China Traders shares were placed, from Hongkong, at \$65. North-Chinas declined to Tls. 200, at which one or two lots were sold, but have since recovered to Tls. 225. Yangtszes have been in strong demand, and shares have changed hands at \$90 to \$93. Fire Insurance.—Business has been confined to Chinas at \$77 cash. Wharfs.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares have been placed at Tls. 266 ex dividend, and Kowloons, from Hongkong, at \$36. Cargo Boats.—Shanghaies were sold at Tls. 142½ ex dividend. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Shares have been sold at Tls. 175. Perak Sugar Cultivation Co. has paid off the balance of its 15 per cent. Debentures. Shares are offering at Tls. 29. Hall & Holtz shares changed hands at \$18. Shanghai Land Investment shares at Tls. 34½. Hongkong Land Investment shares at \$53. Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares at Tls. 400 cash and Tls. 410 for 31st March, and Shanghai-Lankut shares at Tls. 100 and Tls. 95. Quotations are:—

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—141 per cent. prem.  
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited.—Nominal.

Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, Founders.—Nominal.

National Bank of China, Ltd., A.—\$184.

National Bank of China, Ltd., B.—Nominal.

National Bank of China, Ltd., Founders.—Nom.

Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 130 per sh.

Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 25 per sh.

China Mutual S. N. Co.—\$52.20 per share.

Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—Tls. 60 per sh.

Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$28½ per share.

Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$53 per share.

Shanghai Dock Co.—Tls. 550 per share.

Boyd & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Tls. 300 per share.

Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 150 per share.

S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 130 per share.

Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—\$3 per cent. premium.

China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$65 per share.

North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 205 per share.

Union Ins. Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$150 per share.

Yangtze Insee. Assocn., Ltd.—\$93 per share.

Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$155 per share.

Straits Insurance Co., Limited.—\$22½ per share.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$190 per sh.

China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$77 per share.

Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 266 per share.

Birt's Wharf Hide-curing and Wool-cleaning Company.—Tls. 37 per share.

Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited.—\$36 per share.

Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling Company, Limited.—Tls. 1 per share.

Punjom Mining Co., Ltd.—\$6 per share.

Punjom Mining Co., Ltd., pref. shares—\$1½ per share.

Jebeu Mining & Trading Co., Ltd.—\$4½ per sh.

Raub Aus. Steam & Min. Co., Ltd.—\$4.15 p. sh.

Shanghai Co.—Tls. 142½ per share.

Co-operat. Boat Co.—Tls. 123 per sh.

Shanghai Co.—Tls. 200 per share.

Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.—\$4 per share.

Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 175 p. sh.

Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 29 p. sh.

China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$150 per sh.

Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$48 per share.

Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$18 per share.

Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd.—Tls. 34½ per share.

Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$53 per sh.

J. Llewellyn & Co., Limited.—\$37½ per share.

Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 33½ per sh.

Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 25 per share.

Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 400 p. sh.

Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 95 per share.

Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd., Founders.—Nominal.

Shanghai Ice Company—Tls. 117½ per share.

A. S. Watson & Co., Limited.—\$9½ per share.

L'Hotel des Colonies—Tls. 20.

China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company Debentures.—Nominal.

Lyceum Theatre Debentures.—Tls. 12.

Chinese Imp. Gov. Loan, 1886, E.—Tls. 250 (a).

Shanghai Municipal Debentures.—Tls. 100.  
Shanghai Land Investment Company Debentures.—Tls. 100 (a).  
Shanghai Land Investment Company Debentures.—Tls. 94 (a).

(a) Exclusive of accrued interest.

### TUESDAY, 19th March EXCHANGE.

<b>ON LONDON.</b>	
Telegraphic Transfer .....	2.04
Bank Bills, on demand.....	2/0½
Bank Bills, at 30 day's sight .....	—
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight .....	2/0½
Credits, at 4 months' sight .....	10½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 2/1	
<b>ON PARIS.</b>	
Bank Bills, on demand.....	2.56
Credits, at 4 months' sight .....	2.62
<b>ON GERMANY.</b>	
On Demand .....	2.07
<b>ON NEW YORK.</b>	
Banks Bills, on demand.....	49½
Credits, 60 day's sight.....	51 %
<b>ON BOMBAY.</b>	
Telegraphic Transfer .....	185
Bank, on demand .....	185½
<b>ON CALCUTTA.</b>	
Telegraphic Transfer .....	185
Bank, on demand .....	185½
<b>ON SHANGHAI.</b>	
Banks, at sight .....	71½
Private, 30 day's sight .....	72½
<b>ON YOKOHAMA.</b>	
On demand .....	par.
<b>ON MANILA.</b>	
On demand.....	13 % pm., nom.
<b>ON SINGAPORE.</b>	
On demand .....	½ % pm.
<b>SOVEREIGNS.</b> Bank's Buying Rate.....	9.65
<b>GO D LEAF.</b> 100 fine, per tael .....	50.80

### TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 15th March:—(From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report.)—There is positively nothing to write about as regards our freight market homewards, beyond the fact that business generally is in a thoroughly depressed and inactive state, but this condition of affairs may perhaps soon mend, now that business with the North is again resumed. The first arrival from Tientsin brought down a fair quantity of through cargo for London, and we hear of tonnage having been secured for a considerable quantity more, but for New York prospects at the moment are not encouraging. Rates of freight are:—Shanghai to London. P. & O. S. N. Co., O. S. S. Co., Ben Line, C. M. S. N. Co., Glen Line, and Shire Line 40s. per ton general cargo, 45s. waste silk, 50s. tea. Shanghai to Northern Continental ports 42s. 6d. per ton general cargo, 45s. waste silk. Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. Shanghai to London Shell Line 40s. less 10 per cent.; to Hamburg 35s. net; to New York 44s. Shanghai to New York direct 50s. tea and general cargo, vid London 50s., sailer 22s. Shanghai to Havre direct—General cargo per ton of 40 cubic feet 37s. 6d. net, of 20 cwt. 45s. net. Shanghai to Genoa and Marseilles—General cargo per ton of 40 cubic feet 35s. net, of 20 cwt. 45s. Chefoo to Swatow nothing doing; Chinkiang to Canton 18 candareens; Wuhu to Canton and Swatow nothing doing; Moji to Shanghai \$2 per ton coal; Nagasaki to Shanghai \$1.70 per ton coal. Settlements during the fortnight:—Albert, Norwegian steamer, 545 tons register, 3 months, optional 3 months \$3,750 per month, Björg, Norwegian steamer, 484 tons register, Nagasaki to Shanghai, \$1.70 per ton coal, Pinguey, British steamer, 1,982 tons register, Chinkiang to Whampoa, 16 candareens per picul. Disengaged vessel in port.—Nil.

### VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Malacca (str.), Myrmidon (str.), Aden (str.), Carmarthenshire (str.), Elaz (str.), Ravenna (str.).  
For HAVRE and HAMBURG.—Gerda (str.).  
For BREMEN.—Bayern (str.).  
For MARSEILLES.—Spondilus (str.).  
For VICTORIA, B.C.—Sikh (str.).  
For SAN FRANCISCO.—Tillie E. Starbuck, City of Peking (str.), Queen Margaret.  
For NEW YORK.—St. David, Lucy A. Nickels, Benlarig (str.).  
For AUSTRALIA.—Catterthun (str.).

### SHIPPING

#### ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

#### HONGKONG.

February—  
ARRIVALS.  
13. Progress, German str., from Saigon.  
13. Swatow, German str., from Bangkok.  
14. Oceanic, British str., from San Francisco.  
14. Bayern, German str., from Bremen.  
14. Gisela, Austrian str., from Trieste.  
14. Memnon, British str., from Sandakan.  
14. Hupeh, British str., from Swatow.



14, Leander, British cruiser, from a cruise.  
 14, Catterthun, British str., from Kobe.  
 15, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.  
 15, Frejr, Danish str., from Pakhoi.  
 16, Taisang, British str., from Canton.  
 16, Namyong, British str., from Singapore.  
 16, Phra Nang, British str., from Bangkok.  
 16, Tamarind, Norw. str., from Bangkok.  
 17, Fokien, British str., from Tamsui.  
 17, Taicheong, German str., from Aro Bay.  
 17, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.  
 17, Peiyang, German str., from Canton.  
 17, Chusan, German str., from Canton.  
 18, Activ, Danish str., from Pakhoi.  
 18, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.  
 18, Kwongmo, British str., from Amoy.  
 18, Fushun, British str., from Canton.  
 18, Redbreast, British g.-bt., from Bangkok.  
 18, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.  
 18, Beatrice, British str., from Saigon.  
 18, Wuotan, German str., from Bangkok.  
 18, Spartan, British cruiser, from a cruise.  
 18, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Iloilo.  
 18, Norge, Norw. str., from Batoum.  
 18, Kong Beng, British str., from Bangkok.  
 19, Saghalien, French str., from Shanghai.  
 19, Kwanglee, British str., from Shanghai.  
 19, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.  
 19, Sarpodon, British str., from Liverpool.

**March—**  
**DEPARTURES.**  
 14, Ask, Danish str., for Haiphong.  
 14, Fushun, British str., for Canton.  
 14, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.  
 14, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.  
 14, Gartha, Norw. bark, for Rajang.  
 14, Rohilla, British str., for Europe.  
 14, Brunnhilde, German str., for Canton.  
 14, Canton, British str., for Shanghai.  
 14, Ormiston, British str., for Singapore.  
 15, Niobe, German str., for Yokohama.  
 15, Ayr, British str., for Kutchinotzu.  
 15, Pathian, British str., for Saigon.  
 15, Straits of Dover, British str., for Saigon.  
 15, Alexandrine, German cr., for Singapore.  
 15, Ancona, British str., for Yokohama.  
 15, Gerda, German str., for Hamburg.  
 15, Gisela, Austrian str., for Shanghai.  
 15, Hupeh, British str., for Singapore.  
 15, Merionethshire, British str., for Nagasaki.  
 15, Pekin, British str., for Amoy.  
 16, Ethiopie, British str., for Moji.  
 16, Benlawers, British str., for Saigon.  
 16, Changsha, British str., for Yokohama.  
 16, Chowfa, British str., for Swatow.  
 16, Deuteros, German str., for Bangkok.  
 16, Mich. Jensen, German str., for Haiphong.  
 16, Nurnberg, German str., for Yokohama.  
 16, Yuensang, British str., for Amoy.  
 17, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.  
 17, Krim, Norw. str., for Saigon.  
 17, Tetartos, German str., for Saigon.  
 17, Ardnamurchan, British ship, for Saigon.  
 17, Gov. Robie, Amr. ship, for Iloilo.  
 17, Caleb Curtis, British sch., for Par. cels.  
 18, Spartan, British cruiser, for a cruise.  
 18, Taisang, British str., for Shanghai.  
 18, Gloucester City, British str., for Saigon.  
 19, Fokien, British str., for Swatow.  
 19, Leander, British cr., for Yokohama.  
 19, Progress, German str., for Tournon.  
 19, Activ, Danish str., for Pakhoi.  
 19, Catterthun, British str., for Australia.  
 19, Chusan, German str., for Chefoo.  
 19, Fushun, British str., for Shanghai.  
 19, Loosok, British str., for Bangkok.  
 19, Memnon, British str., for Kudat.  
 19, Namyong, British str., for Amoy.  
 19, Oceanic, British str., for London.  
 19, Peiyang, German str., for Shanghai.  
 19, Wingsang, British str., for Calcutta.  
 19, Orange Grove, British bark, for Mantung.

# **AMOY.**

**March—**

## **ARRIVALS.**

8, Soochow, British str., from Shanghai.  
 8, Namoia, British str., from Foochow.  
 8, Orient, German bark, from Taiwanfoo.  
 8, Monmouthshire, Brit. str., from Shanghai.  
 8, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.  
 9, Haitan, British str., from Hongkong.  
 9, Arthur, German str., from Pescadores.  
 9, Pekin, British str., from Kelung.  
 9, Kwongmo, British str., from Hongkong.  
 10, Jordan, British str., from Batoum.  
 11, Bygdo, Norw. str., from Hongkong.  
 12, Fokien, British str., from Hongkong.  
 13, Haitan, British str., from Foochow.  
 13, Hoihow, British str., from Chinkiang.  
 14, Thales, British str., from Hongkong.

14, Ajax, British str., from Hongkong.

**March—**  
**DEPARTURES.**  
 7, Albingia, British str., for Singapore.  
 7, Cheangchow, British str., for Straits.  
 8, Hangchow, British str., for Shanghai.  
 8, Chen Wan, Chinese g.-bt., for Foochow.  
 8, Namoia, British str., for Swatow.  
 9, Formosa, British str., for Hongkong.  
 9, Haitan, British str., for Foochow.  
 9, Monmouthshire, Brit. str., for New York.  
 9, Soochow, British str., for Swatow.  
 9, Continental, Dutch str., for Manila.  
 10, Cheng Hai, Chinese g.-bt., for Formosa.  
 11, Kwongmo, British str., for Tamsui.  
 11, Pekin, British str., for Hongkong.  
 12, Fokien, British str., for Tamsui.  
 12, Bygdo, Norw. str., for Straits.  
 12, Arthur, British str., for Kelung.  
 13, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.  
 14, Ajax, British str., for Shanghai.

## **SHANGHAI.**

5, Dardanus, British str., from Liverpool.  
 6, Taksang, British str., from Hongkong.  
 6, Fushun, British str., from Hongkong.  
 7, Lishun, German str., from Chefoo.  
 7, Fuhyi, German str., from Foochow.  
 7, Wycliffe, British str., from Amoy.  
 7, Lifoo, German str., from Hongkong.  
 7, Peik, Norw. str., from Nagasaki.  
 8, Mingyi, German str., from Swatow.  
 8, Nanyang, German str., from Hongkong.  
 8, Benlarig, British str., from Hyogo.  
 8, Kaifong, British str., from Chefoo.  
 8, Chefoo, British str., from Amoy.  
 8, Newchwang, British str., from Swatow.  
 8, Ping Ching, Chinese cruiser, from a cruise.  
 8, Albert, Norw. str., from Nagasaki.  
 8, Queen Margaret, Brit. 4-m. bk., from New York.

9, Shanung, British str., from Swatow.  
 9, Myrmidon, British str., from Hyogo.  
 9, Sebastian Bach, British bark, from S'pore.  
 9, Margarete, Austrian str., from Chinkiang.  
 10, Fooksang, British str., from Foochow.  
 10, Woosung, British str., from Hongkong.  
 10, Hangchow, British str., from Amoy.  
 10, Spondilus, British str., from Batoum.  
 10, Clara, German str., from Moji.  
 10, Pronto, German str., from Kuchinotzu.  
 10, Hainan, German str., from Moji.  
 10, Apenrade, German str., from Moji.  
 11, Caledonien, Fr. str., from Hongkong.  
 11, Kweiyang, British str., from Tientsin.  
 11, Afghan, British str., from Japan.  
 13, Lyeemoon, German str., from Hongkong.  
 13, Kwanglee, British str., from Hongkong.  
 13, Choysang, British str., from Hongkong.  
 13, Ganges, British str., from Hongkong.  
 13, Iltis, German g.-bt., from Chinkiang.  
 13, Progress, Norw. str., from Nagasaki.  
 13, Loyal, Dutch str., from Kuchinotzu.  
 13, Nierstein, German str., from Kobe.  
 13, Menmuir, British str., from Australia.  
 13, Manila, British str., from London.  
 13, Macduff, British str., from Liverpool.  
 13, Tunghow, British str., from Tientsin.  
 14, Poochi, Chinese str., from Tientsin.  
 14, Rattler, British g.-bt., from Takow.  
 14, Ping Ching, Chinese cruiser, from a cruise.  
 14, Marie, German cr., from Nagasaki.  
 14, Aida, Amr. schr., from Vancouver.  
 14, Sydney, French str., from Japan.  
 14, Kiel, German str., from Moji.  
 14, Pingsuey, British str., from Nagasaki.  
 14, Glengarry, British str., from London.  
 15, Fuhyi, German str., from Foochow.  
 15, Kungping, British str., from Hongkong.  
 15, El Dorado, British str., from Hongkong.

**March—**

## **DEPARTURES.**

5, Soochow, British str., for Amoy.  
 5, Clara, German str., for Moji.  
 6, Taiwan, British str., for Chinkiang.  
 6, Smit, British str., for Kobe.  
 6, Monmouthshire, British str., for N. York.  
 6, Pingching, Chinese R.C., for a cruise.  
 7, Loyal, Dutch str., for Kuchinotzu.  
 7, Kwongsang, British str., for Tientsin.  
 7, Poochi, British str., for Wenchow.  
 7, Sabine Rickmers, German str., for H'kong.  
 7, Progress, Norw. str., for Nagasaki.  
 7, Plover, British g.-bt., for Tientsin.  
 8, Chusan, German str., for Hongkong.  
 8, Chiyuen, British str., for Chefoo.  
 8, Teyi, German str., for Tientsin.  
 9, Rohilla, British str., for Hongkong.  
 9, Walter Siegfried, British bk., for Chefoo.  
 9, Lishun, German str., for Tientsin.  
 9, Bjorg, Norw. str., for Moji.

9, Fushun, British str., for Hongkong.  
 9, Fuhyi, German str., for Foochow.  
 9, Umbria, Italian cruiser, for Nagasaki.  
 10, Dardanus, British str., for Japan.  
 10, Nanyang, German str., for Chinkiang.  
 10, Lifoo, German str., for Chinkiang.  
 10, Mingyi, German str., for Tientsin.  
 10, Chefoo, British str., for Tientsin.  
 13, Wycliffe, British str., for Foochow.  
 10, Dorra, British bark, for Port Townsend.  
 10, Albert, Norw. str., for Japan.  
 11, Peik, Norw. str., for Chefoo.  
 11, Clara, German str., for Moji.  
 11, Kaifong, British str., for Tientsin.  
 11, Newchwang, British str., for Tientsin.  
 11, Caledonien, French str., for Japan.  
 12, Pronto, German str., for Moji.  
 12, Fooksang, British str., for Chinkiang.  
 12, Margarete, Austrian str., for Chinkiang.  
 12, Apenrade, German str., for Moji.  
 12, Shantung, British str., for Tientsin.  
 12, Hangchow, British str., for Swatow.  
 12, Woosung, British str., for Amoy.  
 12, Elisabeth, German bark, for Amoy.  
 13, Liting, German str., for Chefoo.  
 13, Kweiyang, British str., for Tientsin.  
 13, Hainan, German str., for Moji.  
 13, Ping Ching, Chinese R.C., for a cruise.  
 14, Afghan, British str., for Japan.  
 14, Porpoise, British cruiser, for Taku.  
 15, Tunghow, British str., for Tientsin.  
 15, Kwanglee, British str., for Hongkong.  
 15, Choysang, British str., for Swatow.

## **PASSENGER LIST.**

### **ARRIVED.**

Per *Gisela*, str., from Trieste, &c.—Messrs. Habenberger, Tarabacchia, Martin, Astei, Ariga, and Mrs. Balfour and child.  
 Per *Bayern*, str., from Bremen.—Capt. Henry Hygom, Dr. C. Thomson and family, Consul Dr. Knappe and family, Professor and Mrs. Sommerville, Dr. and Mrs. Black, Mr. and Mrs. Storry, Miss P. L. Chapin, Messrs. B. Foster, John Shields, Otto Wagner, W. Stoffregen and family, Douglas Dick, F. J. Schoenicke, A. Byers, Jr., C. C. McLane, W. G. Watermann, J. N. Howard, G. Fellows, and Charles Aird.  
 Per *Haitan*, str., from Coast Ports.—Mr. and Mrs. A. S. van Dyck and 4 children, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. dos Remedios and 3 children, Mrs. L. P. Kip, Messrs. A. B. Skottowe, Schmple and Mundham, and 180 Chinese.  
 Per *Phra Nang*, str., from Bangkok.—Capt. Wilson and Mr. Fuge.  
 Per *Fokien*, str., from Tamsui, &c.—Mrs. Grimany and Miss Smith.  
 Per *Sungkiang*, str., from Manila.—Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Messrs. Ross Johnston, Salomonson, and De Mosch.  
 Per *Hanoi*, str., from Haiphong, &c.—Capt. and Madame Odent, Messrs. Crebessae and La Poulgade.  
 Per *Esmeralda*, str., from Manila.—Mr. and Mrs. Higgins and family, Messrs. G. Tomlin, D. McKay, J. McGregor, Jose Jemenez, C. Miller, H. Schwarzenberger, Padres A. Canal and B. Esculera.  
 Per *Beatrice*, str., from Saigon.—Messrs. R. Berwick and T. Grimshaw.

### **DEPARTED.**

Per *Catherine Aparcar*, str., for Singapore, &c.—Lieuts. C. R. Staveley and J. E. Gough, Mrs. Marcus, Messrs. D. Guzzar, A. S. Cohen, E. J. Bates, W. Robinson, and Mrs. Lea Ying.  
 Per *Rohilla*, str., from Hongkong for Singapore.—Lieuts. P. B. Molesworth, R.E., F. F. Cambarde, R.A., 2nd Lieut. E. H. Stevenson, Lieut. E. L. C. Berger. For Naples.—Mr. R. Fergusson Scott. For London.—Mr. and Mrs. T. Duncan, Master Sayer, Lieut. F. W. Robinson, R.N.R., Messrs. G. Kemp, A. Niven, D. Reid, C. M. McShane, R.N., and G. McDonald. From Shanghai for London.—Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Ritchie, and Mr. E. W. Steel. From Yokohama for Bombay.—Messrs. G. Draper, R. Salvaton, F. Wright, F. C. Arden, J. Mongini, J. Stevens, T. Swan, H. Craig, W. J. Miller, G. Drover, P. Ramsden, W. E. Hillman, A. Symon, and A. Beltranie. For London.—Messrs. J. C. Babot, F. Higgins, H. H. de L. Wood, Dr. Woods, Messrs. R. J. Scott, J. D. Reay, J. Thomas, J. B. Smart, E. W. Steel, W. Wright, J. Collie, F. Cooper, and Capt. A. Symons.  
 Per *Hailoong*, str., for Swatow.—Mr. and Mrs. Li Chow and 4 children, Mrs. Li Chow, Mr. Ah Wha. For Amoy.—Mr. J. Shield. For Foochow.—Mr. J. Chapeal.